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January 456

HIGH TIMES

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HIGH TIMES JANUARY



“It’s hardly a surprise that outdoor growers insist that sun-grown plants possess certain flavor characteristics derived from their natural environment.”

—*The Buds of Autumn, page 73*

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43 Seedless in Seattle

The Emerald City played host to the second-ever U.S. Cannabis Cup this fall. Thousands flooded Seattle to celebrate legal weed in Washington State as bud breeders, concentrate kings and edible aficionados competed for the most prestigious prizes in the world of pot.

55 Vapor Pen Review 2.0

Last winter, we tested and rated 15 different pocket-sized vaporizers so you'd know which ones were worthy of your stash and which were worthy of the trash. Since then, a slew of new vape pens has hit the market, so we're back again to separate the best from the rest.

73 The Buds of Autumn

Good news! This year, Mother Earth has yielded a record crop of outdoor cannabis. Travel to America's prime growing country and experience the joys of harvest with veteran cultivators. *By Dan Skye*

88 Run for the Roses

In Los Angeles, a trio of growers has built one of the city's best dispensaries and taken home multiple Cannabis Cups for their efforts. Go behind the scenes to find out why Buds and Roses has risen so rapidly to the top.

By Samantha Nicholas

98 Yaba, the Madness Drug

As an economic boom sweeps Asia, so has a new drug epidemic. *Yaba*, a form of methamphetamine mixed with caffeine and flavoring, is becoming the go-to drug on the continent for those who want to work hard and party harder. *By Joseph Allchin*

104 High Times Interview: Dr. Sanjay Gupta

As CNN's chief medical correspondent, Gupta made a huge error when researching the therapeutic potential of marijuana: He trusted the US government. *By David Bienenstock*

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DIGITAL

► Glass Artist of the Month

Many glassblowers maintain that their art is second only to animation when it comes to exercising the boundaries of their imagination. In animation, anything is possible. In the medium of glass, only the laws of physics limit a glassblower's creativity.

Tammy Ball, who possesses imagination in surplus, found her calling at the Rochester Institute of Technology. She was on full scholarship, but was bored. What interested her was RIT's glassblowing studio. Now, 13 years removed from school, she says, "Glass means I get to do what I enjoy, to make things that people enjoy. It gives me an outlet to be creative and be a problem-solver. Best of all, I don't have to work at a shitty job I hate."

As for her style, she calls it "silly." Got a family member that you'd like to memorialize in glass? Tammy can accommodate you. Is there a sports hero or movie star you'd like to make into a pipe? Ask Tammy. Sometimes she considers moving in a more serious direction. "I've been thinking of busting out stuff that's more artsy, if you will," she says. "But I make a lot of Heisenberg pipes [from *Breaking Bad*] and cartoons seem to sell the most."

Orders for her pipes continue to "pour in" to her Glens Falls, NY studio. But she says she works banker's hours. "Things are good. I bought a house and have a nice car. But cigarettes, at ten bucks a pack in New York, are expensive. And herb isn't cheap. What can I say?" she laughs. "It's expensive being Tammy Ball!"

Visit: hightimes.com/glassartistofthemonth

POT POLL

What if pot was legal?

It's a question we often ask ourselves dreamily: "What if pot was legal?" With prospects looking brighter all the time, we asked you whether legalization would affect your smoking habits. With more than 2,100 responding, nearly two-thirds of you said you'd smoke the same amount, legal or illegal. Not surprising. Our daily routines would remain the same. What would change for everyone is finally having a sense of dignity regarding our cannabis use. **Vote in our latest poll online!**



I would smoke more...33% (709 votes)

I would smoke less...3% (54 votes)

I would smoke the same...65% (1389 votes)



Bobby with Slightly Stoopid's Kyle McDonald

► Seattle Stars

Check out senior editor Bobby Black's backstage video interviews with Slightly Stoopid and Redman at the U.S. Cannabis Cup in Seattle. Also, view the tasty strains that took top prize!

hightimes.com/seattlevip2013



► Free Weed from Danny Danko

Senior cultivation editor Danny Danko hosted two panels of the nation's top cultivation experts at the U.S. Seattle Cup Expo. Listen in to the live recording of the spirited discussion on Danko's new podcast.



Miss January 2014

NAME: Rachel

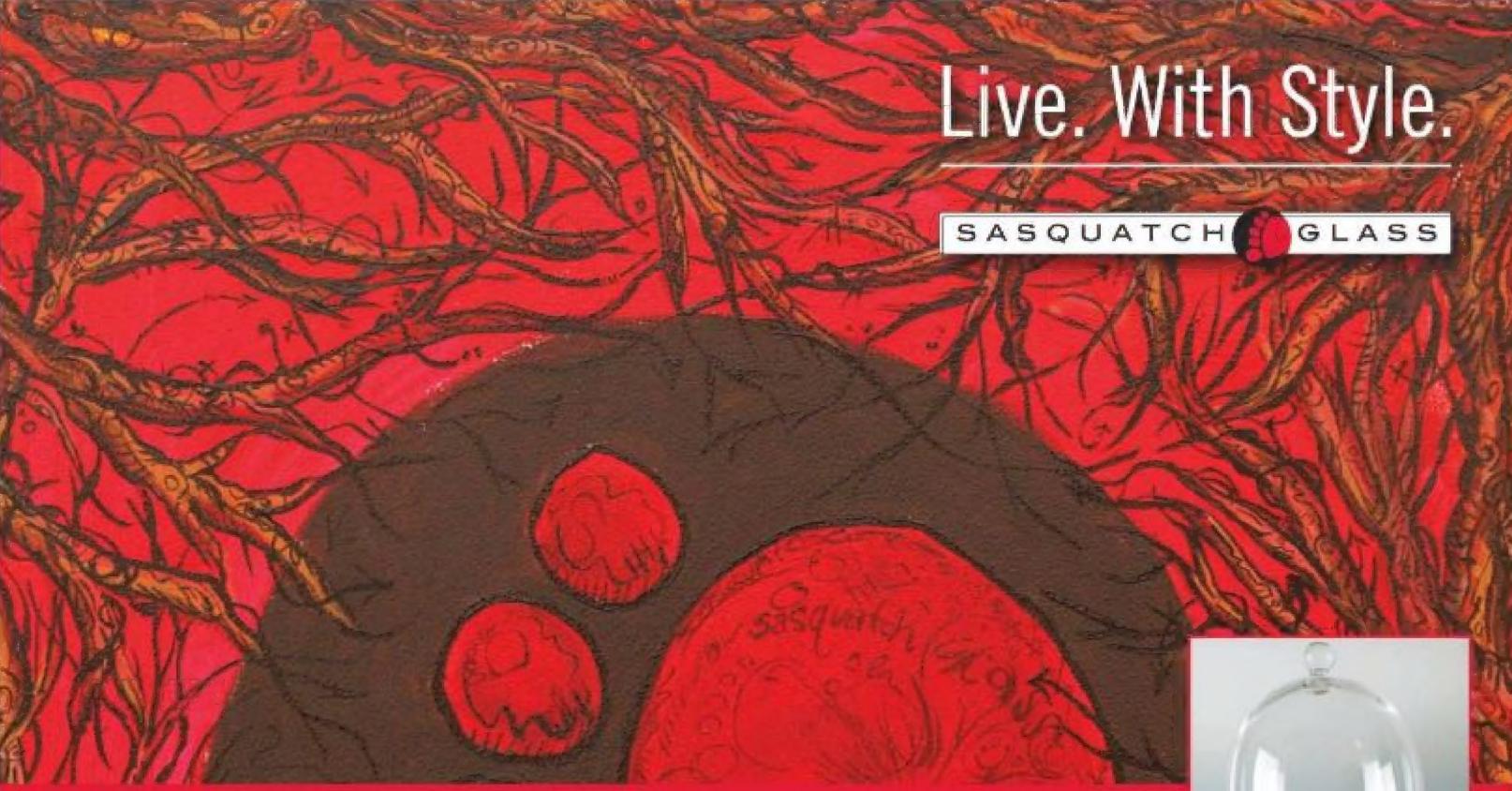
PROFILE: Space Queen

AGE: 24

CITY: Grass Valley, CA

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2014: The Year of Pot

Guess what, people? *High Times* is turning 40! That's right—our premier issue came out in 1974, and now here we are, bringing you the January 2014 issue. Who would have thought that we'd be up there with *Time*, *Vogue*, *Playboy* and *National Geographic* as one of the longest-running publications on your local newsstand? Certainly not our parents ... if we had parents. So happy birthday to us!

The point is, we're extremely delighted with having come this far, and we plan on celebrating (we're good at that) all year long—and would like to invite you, our loyal readers, to the party. In the magazine, on the Web, and in person at our various Cannabis Cups, we're going to be toasting not only our success, but also marijuana's continuing victories across America.

It's a testament to all those who've supported marijuana one way or another during their lifetimes that these efforts are finally bearing fruit, as pot prohibition crumbles state by state. Despite being in the crosshairs of law enforcement for generations, the marijuana industry has managed to evolve—slowly and civilly—to the point where the people of Colorado and Washington have voted to legitimize it. So if you missed Washington State's first-ever totally legal, non-medical U.S. Cannabis Cup in Seattle, or if you were there and just want to relive the experience, Mike Hughes recaps the festivities starting on page 43—and you should also check out the complete winners' list on page 50.

Continuing with the progressive theme of this issue is our interview with Dr. Sanjay Gupta (page 104). As you've probably heard, Dr. Gupta made headlines in August 2013 with his mea culpa for spreading misinformation on the enormous medical promise of cannabis. After investigating the issue further and finding out that he'd been misled by government claims, Dr. Gupta apologized for being one of medical marijuana's highest-profile detractors. What's more, he spoke with *High Times* about his revelation and subsequent conversion to the pro-medi-pot side.

Finally, there's a vapor pen revolution sweeping the country. But with so many pens on the market, how can you tell which one is right for you? Thirty-two of the most popular models were put to the test by *High Times'* expert research staff. You can read the results on page 55.

Without question, 2014 promises to be a banner year for marijuana legislation—and by a happy coincidence, it's *High Times'* 40th anniversary.

So, yes, we're still growing after all these years.

Sincerely,

Chris Simunek
Editor-In-Chief

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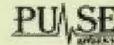
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Cannabis Revolutionary

I believe it's time for a revolution—a cannabis revolution. When our forefathers did not want to be ruled by a distant monarch, they fought for their freedom. When African-Americans wanted equal rights, they stood up and sat in the front of the bus, they protested, they broke the laws meant for their oppression—and when the people of America saw these things happening, they also began to change their ways and brought an end to segregation. When the Vietnam War showed no signs of ending, people stood up all around our nation; some even died trying to stop a war they knew to be unjust.

When cannabis became legal for medical use, I saw it save lives—but it can do so much more. I want to show that cannabis can make a difference in our schools, on our streets, and for our servicemen and women. It can also create a better life for those less fortunate. I know this to be true, and I believe that I can spread this message with the right amount of help.

A Missionary in Michigan

Compassion for a Kind Man

I'm writing this letter on behalf of my father, who was recently and unjustly charged with the possession of marijuana. It was nearly two months ago that a police officer pulled him over for a broken taillight and insisted on searching the vehicle. My father stepped out of the car and allowed the search; unfortunately, the officer found a roach on the floorboard that my dad didn't know about. A few weeks later, he was scheduled for a court appearance, which made him worried. He called the DA's office, and they hadn't even filled the papers out yet, but they told him that it was most likely going to be a misdemeanor charge and a fine. Well, on July 25, my dad went in to pay his fine and suddenly found that he was facing a felony charge that carries a possible two-year prison sentence and a \$4,000 fine. His license may also be taken away.

My dad has his medical marijuana card and follows the laws accordingly. He does not deserve to be treated this way, and I believe the charges are ridiculous. There are certainly people that the police department should be keeping an eye on, but my father is not one of them.

I write this letter hoping that we can find support. He needs a good lawyer and, regardless of the result, my family has already suffered. This shouldn't have happened to him or to anyone else, for that matter. I believe it's time that these stories are shared, so that those who feel alone or

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High Times January 2014

and there I was subjected to the horrors of mental healthcare in America.

I was strip-searched, put in paper scrubs to keep me "safe" and even had my phone taken away. "How am I supposed to tweet?" I asked in jest. No one laughed.

I was asked a plethora of personal questions by the psychiatrist assigned to me, and we inevitably made it to the topic of drugs. I was asked if I drank or smoked cigarettes; then my psychiatrist, Dr. C., looked at me and asked, "Do you smoke marijuana?" I paused for a moment, then said, "Every day." Wrong answer, Courtney! I soon found myself under attack for telling the truth. Dr. C. even went so far as to imply that my depression, anxiety and bipolar disorder are products of my marijuana "addiction."

I told him this was no addiction: I'm a good student, a good person, and I smoke maybe a bowl or two a day to quell the crippling anxiety I have, or to lull me to sleep when I'm too upset to do so. Those also turned

to be the wrong answers. In the end, after Dr. C. was finished berating me for being a marijuana addict, he took out his handy-dandy prescription pad, and I left the facility that night with four prescriptions, for uppers, downers, antidepressants—things I have seen friends and classmates develop actual addictions to. I looked at my prescription for the antidepressant: "MAY CAUSE INTENSE SUICIDAL THOUGHTS," it proclaimed. I went home and had myself a smoke and a good read.

Mental illness and marijuana have turned into hot-button issues in this country. While more and more people are having their eyes opened to the benefits of marijuana, there are still many others who have misconceptions about this glorious plant—and the same goes for mental illness. When people think of a person with bipolar disorder, they think of a crazy, angry individual who is prone to flying off the handle and slapping people with cell phones just because it is Wednesday. That is not so. Likewise, when people think of a marijuana enthusiast, one may conjure images of a lazy, unmotivated, degenerate slob of a stoner. I challenge both of these stereotypes, and that is why I believe it's time for people like me to bring our stories to the public.

Courtney W.



Dr. C. even went so far as to imply that my depression, anxiety and bipolar disorder are products of my marijuana "addiction."

afraid can find some solace—and maybe a spark of hope that things will be okay. Bad things *do* happen to good people.

Vexed

Buds and Bipolar Disorder

One day during my senior year in 2011, I woke up a different person. I was suddenly drowning in a sea of despair, crippling sadness and anxiety. I was deeply depressed, and my depression got so severe that there were days in which I simply could not go to class. I have always been an ardent student, and to this day I harbor guilt for being too morose to go to school. I felt bad for missing class, for missing everything. I felt as though I was a failure, and I woke up each day more apathetic than the last.

After about a year of doctors, tests and numerous pill regimens, I was diagnosed as bipolar at the tender age of 17. I am now 20. Recently, I found myself in bad mental shape again: I was nervous, too nervous to even go outside. I tried to call my psychiatrist—it was an emergency—but anyone familiar with mental healthcare knows that no matter how "urgently" you may need to see your psychiatrist, you have to wait in line.

My mother, fed up, took me to an emergency psychiatric facility downtown,

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January 2014 High Times

HEAVENLY LIGHT We didn't say it; the Bible did. According to Genesis 1:29, God said: "I have given you every herb-bearing seed which is upon the face of all the earth." We have no doubt that cannabis was included, especially seeing this shot from a Trinity County garden. Read on page 73 about the fall harvest in "Buds of Autumn." *Photo by Dan Skye*

13

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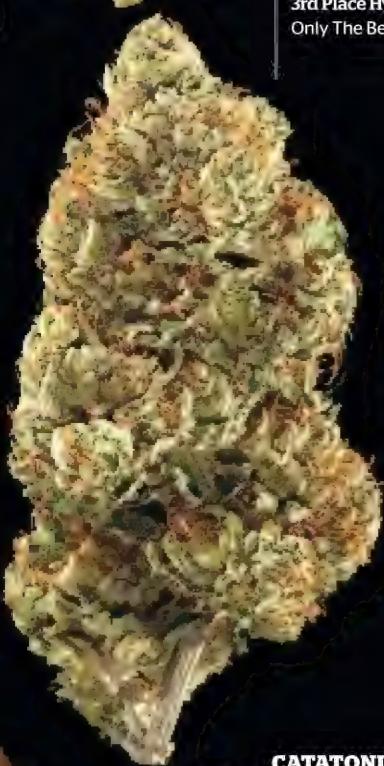
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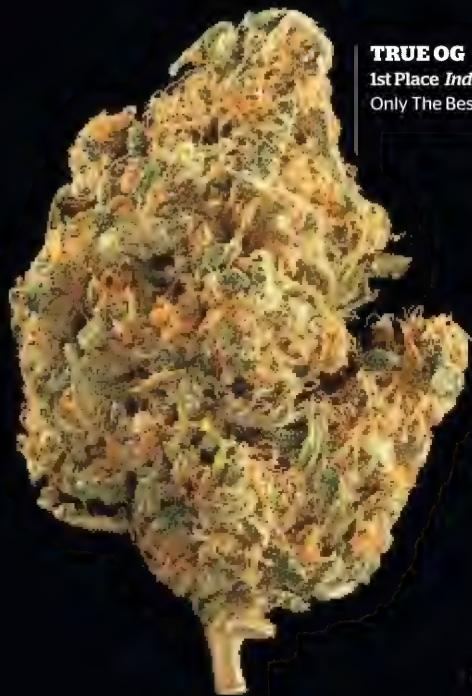
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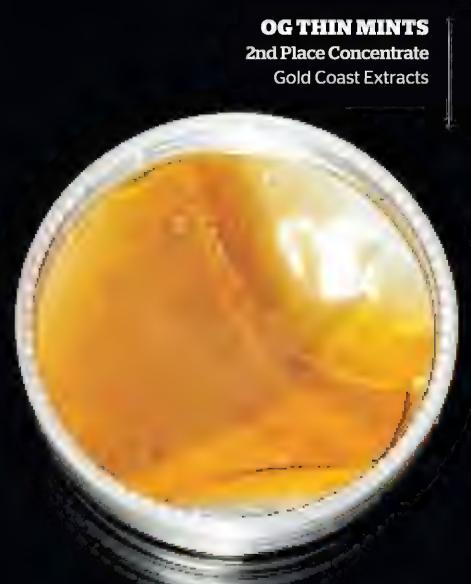
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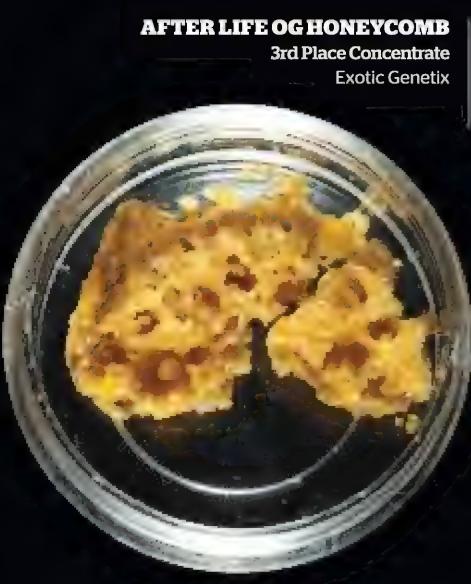
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Kush Connection



HIP-HOP HYSTERIA Redman cemented his legendary stoner status at the U.S. Cannabis Cup concert in Seattle. Opening the Cali Connection Homegrown Party at the WaMu Theater, the *How High* star had the crowd in the palm of his hand before making an epic stage dive to end his set. See page 43 for more Cup coverage. *Photo by Kim Sidwell*



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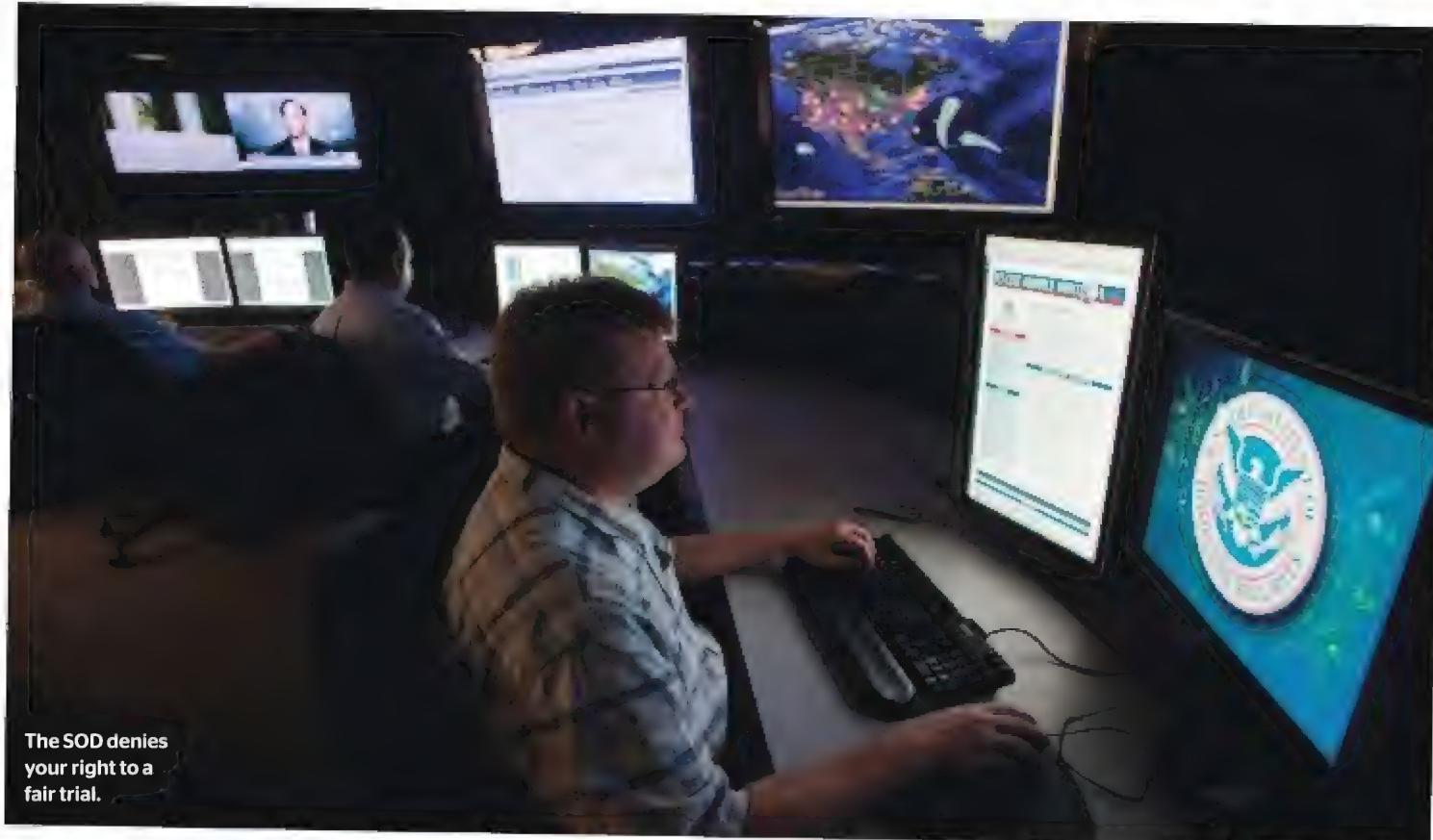
Baltimore's tincture-loving band p.27



Food

Killer Brownies

This dessert will knock you off your feet! p.34



The New Data-Mining Disaster

The Feds call it "parallel construction." But the practice is really evidence-laundering that denies Americans their rights. *By Russ Belville*

Remember that traffic stop when you got busted for weed—the one where the cops said you made an improper lane change? Remember how you were driving so carefully that night, knowing you had marijuana in the trunk? Out of all the cars on the freeway—including several that were weaving or speeding or otherwise posed a far greater traffic hazard—how in the world did yours manage to arouse the suspicion of Officer Observant and his trusty dope dog, Sniff?

Because, unbeknownst to you—and, even more importantly, your defense attorney—a classified division of the Drug Enforcement Administration had secretly tipped off the cops about you.

The unit is called the Special

Operations Division (SOD), and a blockbuster report by Reuters blows the lid off its practice of "funneling information" gathered from "intelligence intercepts, wiretaps ... and a massive database of telephone records" to state and local police in order to "help them launch criminal investigations of Americans." The SOD includes units from the FBI, CIA, IRS, Homeland Security and the National Security Agency, which was revealed by whistleblower Edward Snowden to be engaged in data-mining and spying on US citizens.

Few organisms thrive in darkness and bullshit; among them are magic mushrooms and bureaucracies. The SOD is no different. The unit was originally formed

in 1994 with a few dozen employees and a mandate to pursue Latin American drug cartels. These days, it has a staff of several hundred and a secret budget estimated at \$125 million annually.

Also like magic mushrooms, the SOD takes us through the looking glass to a land where nothing is as it seems—especially your right to a fair trial. The fact that federal cops might help state and local ones to catch drug criminals isn't exactly breaking news: The shocking part of the SOD's operations is something called "parallel construction." This is a technique that the SOD instructs local cops to use once the unit has given them a tip, thereby ensuring that all record of the SOD's involvement is

erased from the forthcoming trial.

A document obtained by Reuters explains to law enforcement agents, "Remember that the utilization of SOD cannot be revealed or discussed in any investigative function." Each and every piece of evidence or intelligence provided by the SOD was to be carefully and systematically erased from the legal paper trail. In its place, police were ordered to use "normal investigative techniques to recreate the information provided by SOD." Think of it like money laundering, but this time for illegally obtained evidence instead of cash.

One retired federal agent explained to Reuters how the SOD would disseminate these tips: "You'd be told only, 'Be at a certain truck stop at a certain time and look for a certain vehicle.' And so we'd alert the state police to find an excuse to stop that vehicle, and then have a drug dog search it."

Once the cops made the arrest, they would then go through the process of "scrubbing" the investigation of all evidence of the SOD's involvement, pretending instead that they just happened to make a traffic stop and happened to do a drug-dog search and happened to find a cache of drugs—hence the term "parallel construction."

The big problem with this technique is a little thing known as the Sixth

Your attorney is effectively shut out from an entire line of inquiry as to how the authorities initiated their case against you.

Amendment, which recognizes a defendant's right to a "compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor." After Officer Observant stopped and arrested you, for example, your defense attorney could issue subpoenas to the officer, the trainer of the drug dog, even other witnesses to your driving that night. But with "parallel construction," your defense attorney has no idea that the original tip to bust you came from some data-mining program in a completely unrelated terrorism investigation. Your attorney is effectively shut out from an entire line of inquiry as to how the authorities initiated their case against you—one that may lead to information that exonerates you, or at least reveals enough wrongdoing by law enforcement to suppress the evidence obtained in your case.

The SOD claims that such techniques must be kept confidential in order to protect classified information, despite the longstanding courtroom practice of having judges examine such evidence in private chambers. Much of the investigatory work being scrubbed was based on information gathered by the Joint

Terrorism Task Forces established after 9/11. In a follow-up article by the UK's *Daily Mail*, members of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition confirm that "creative report writing" is being used to hide the fact that the wide-ranging powers we granted to law enforcement in the fight against Al Qaeda are now being used to go after Americans domestically for low-level drug crimes.

Even prosecutors are being kept in the dark. One federal prosecutor in Florida dropped his case when he learned that the DEA had lied to him about the SOD's involvement, telling Reuters he lost confidence in the investigation.

However, most cops don't worry about their forays into "parallel construction" being exposed. Thanks in part to draconian mandatory-minimum sentencing laws for drug crimes, most of the cases in which the SOD is secretly involved end in plea bargains—and so the original source of the evidence against the defendant is never explored in open court. 

Listen to the Russ Belville radio show at radicalruss.com.

HIGH FIVE

The Green Zones

It's tough to name the prime garden spots in America, but let's give it a shot! *By Mark Miller*



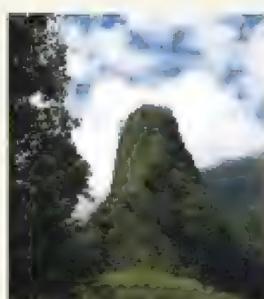
EMERALD TRIANGLE, CA

The northwest California counties of Trinity, Mendocino and Humboldt are the stuff of legend. Local economies are dependent on the pot industry. With hidden hills and fertile soil, the Triangle is the cultivation equivalent of Northern California's Napa Valley wine country. The total market for Triangle pot is estimated at over \$1 billion.



DANIEL BOONE NATIONAL FOREST, KY

Over 2 million acres of rich soil cover this eastern Kentucky landmark providing great grow conditions. Kentucky generally produces the second most pot in the nation after California. Marijuana is a multi-generational phenomenon in Kentucky, with family members introduced to the trade by their elders.



THE "BIG ISLAND" and MAUI, HI

The monetary value of outdoor bud in Hawaii easily trumps sugar, nuts or coffee combined. Aromatic treasures like potent, *sativa*-dominant landrace Kona Gold is grown on the Big Island. Long-time fave Maui Wowie hails from the state's second largest island. Pleasant temperatures and rich soil enhance quality.



THE SMOKIES, TN

The Great Smoky Mountains provide prime conditions for cultivation in eastern Tennessee. Growing is so prevalent in the Smokies that the US Forest Service officially warns hikers to beware of stumbling across cultivation sites. Pot production value in Tennessee tops all other legal crops in the Volunteer State combined.



YAKIMA VALLEY, WA

This southeastern Washington region is the only one of these five where it's legit to grow. Last July, officials approved outdoor cultivation as part of the state's new legalization law. Only Washington's famed apple crop challenges annual pot value. Like Hawaii, the rich volcanic soil courtesy of the Cascade Mountains to the west enhances cannabis quality.

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We Know, We Know...

You can't OD on pot. Unlike virtually any other intoxicant—or even food or water—cannabis can be consumed frequently without concern of a health risk. A new study conducted by Boston University School of Medicine and Boston Medical Center confirms this.

Investigators examined the test results of 589 adults who screened positive for some drug during a primary care visit. Those patients were then questioned as to their drug use, emergency room visit and hospitalization history, if any, and their overall health. Researchers further verified subjects' health status via their medical records.

Some of the individuals analyzed in this study were big-time party people: a whopping 84 percent smoked pot, 25 percent snorted coke, 23 percent experimented with opioids, with 8 percent falling into the "miscellaneous drug" grab-bag. Only 58 percent smoked pot only but that figure is exceedingly higher than the national average.

Bottom line: There was no measurable difference between the health of those smoking pot daily and drug users abstaining from weed, leading primary study author Daniel Fuster, M.D. to conclude: "Our findings suggest that marijuana use has little measurable effect on self-reported health or health care utilization."

So smoke 'em if you got 'em!



Madonna gets blunted on Letterman, circa 1994.

Madonna & Marijuana

Madonna had quite a weed-related week in mid-September. On the social media website Reddit, during the "Ask Madonna Almost Anything" live Q&A public chat, a fan asked: "What is the best present you got for your [55th] birthday?" The Material Girl frankly replied: "I got a bong in the shape of a penis." However, Madonna ignored all the follow-up pot-related questions, including if she ever gets high to enhance her creative process. The digital exchange came just two days prior to the pop goddess being ranked #42 on the Marijuana Policy Project's "2013 Top 50 Most Influential Marijuana Users" list. We're not sure how you can be described as "influential" while actively stonewalling about your pot history. Apparently, her infamous 1994 David Letterman appearance, in which she claimed to be stoned, and even asked Dave if he'd ever smoked "Indo," qualified her.



Buds Beat Booze

Alcoholism is a devastating disease taking an enormous toll on most of the body, especially the brain. But apparently, some of the cerebral harm wrought by booze can be countered by cannabinoid compounds. According to a new study published in the *Pharmacology Biochemistry and Behavior* journal, delivery of non-psychoactive cannabidiol (CBD) via the skin can reduce alcohol-related brain damage.

The study was conducted by the Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Kentucky. Researchers administered CBD to lab rats subjected to alcohol-induced neurodegeneration in two forms—as a gel and as an injection. In the first experiment, high percentage (5 percent) CBD gels caused a 49 percent reduction in neurodegeneration of the entorhinal cortex, the part of the brain that plays a key role in memory and navigation, two processes definitely damaged by alcohol.

The second trial involved contrasting the application of a 2.5 percent cannabidiol gel to CBD injections. Researchers discovered both methods were comparably adept at shielding the brain, with injections reducing damage by 51 percent; CBD gels performed even more effectively at 56 percent. Researchers suggested such transdermal systems for treating alcoholism could improve patient compliance, a key component to achieving sobriety.

These latest results "gel" with recent studies out of Europe and Israel also reporting cannabinoids exhibit neuroprotective qualities and even trigger the production of new brain cells. Another myth—that pot causes brain damage—bites the dust.

Oh Baby!

Brielle "Bree" Green of Lansing may only be six months old, but she's already the center of a case that's become a rallying point for Michigan medical marijuana advocates. In September, the Ingham County Family Court, authorized by a Child Protective Services (CPS) petition, snatched baby Bree from the Green residence because her mother, Maria Green, was growing cannabis in the house. Medical marijuana is legal in Michigan and Green is a sanctioned medical marijuana provider.

A court officer told the family that the child was taken into custody because pot in the house created a "dangerous situation," as "someone with a gun could break in."

More disturbing is the fact that Maria's ex-husband filed the complaint; they're in a custody dispute over a different child.

Michigan Moms United and state Rep Jeff Irwin (D-Ann Arbor)—who earlier in 2013 introduced a bill to legalize recreational pot statewide—rallied to her defense. The child was placed with a family relative and the Greens must go through the legal process to regain custody of their daughter.

Charmie Gholson of Michigan Moms United says the Green case is one of twenty in Michigan in which CPS have ignored medical pot laws in removing children from a home.



Don't Celebrate Yet

Although the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program (DCE/SP) destroyed less than 4 million plants nationwide in 2012—compared to over 10 million eliminated as recently as 2010—the total poundage of dried pot seized is on the upswing. And while the number of people busted for cultivation nationwide was down over the same 2-year span, those arrested in California, easily the largest producer of pot in America, increased 25 percent, despite a monumental reduction in the number of plants destroyed by drug warriors.

In 2010 DCE/SP raided over 28,000 grow sites across the USA, but seized less than 85,000 pounds of "processed" pot. But in 2012 almost 97,000 pounds of dried cannabis were confiscated from 9,000-plus grows.

In 2010 in California, the DEA eradicated 7.3 million plants, seized less than 53,000 pounds and arrested 1,500-plus individuals. Compare that to 2012: Just over 2 million plants were destroyed and 65,000 pounds were confiscated—but more than 2,000 people were arrested.

God Hates Colorado

In the aftermath of September's horrific floods in Colorado, a local pastor claimed that the disaster was due to God's wrath over legal pot and "decadent homosexual activity."

Pastor Kevin Swanson hosts *Generations With Vision*, a radio program. In the broadcast, he referenced a photo of state House Speaker Mark Ferrandino kissing his partner Greg Wertsch in a March edition of the *Denver Post*.

(Swanson seems a bit obsessed with that kiss. Last June, Swanson blamed it—and women wearing pants—for deadly forest fires in Colorado Springs.)

Swanson sermonized: "If you use God's law... it happens to be the worst year ever in terms of flood and fire damage in Colorado's history."

His co-host, Pastor Dave Buehner, was moved to paraphrase a biblical verse: "...in Colorado this last year we walked in lewdness, lust, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties—"



The UK Gets Real

Like we've been saying, legalizing pot would boost any country's economy, with no negative impact on the public's health. A new study out of England agrees.

The University of Essex's Institute for Social and Economic Research calculated legalization could potentially save the government over 1 billion British pounds annually, nearly a third of that trimmed by eliminating the arrest and prosecution of pot users and cultivators. Additionally, tax revenue generated by licensed pot businesses could produce anywhere from £400 million to £900 million yearly.

The report is mostly positive. Researchers denounce the argument that pot use leads to harder drugs and logically note that legalization eradicates black-market crime and the convictions that damaging an individual's future and the economy as a whole. However, the report wrongly suggests "psychopharmacological harm" caused by pot could be controlled by regulating its potency. No credible evidence exists that high-potency strains are dangerous.

The results were welcomed by the Beckley Foundation, which commissioned the study and seeks scientific-based drug prohibition reform in the UK.

Swanson then interjected: "Marijuana!" implying that Colorado voters' decision to legalize recreational pot somehow angered God, who was so pissed off, He took it out on everybody—even though the law passed with 53 percent of the vote.

Stoners know the Bible, too. Check out Genesis 1:29: "I have given you every herb-bearing seed which is upon the face of all the Earth." O, and here's one more that should be of interest from Romans 1:22: "Claiming to be wise, they became fools."

Dispatches from the international drug war. *By Bill Weinberg*



Uruguay: Lawmakers Vote Up Legalization

On July 31, the Chamber of Deputies, the lower house of Uruguay's General Assembly, approved a bill to legalize cannabis by a vote of 50 to 46. The bill now goes to the upper house, the Chamber of Senators, where lawmakers have assured President José Mujica that they have a majority to pass it. (Mujica's administration introduced the bill, so his signature is not in doubt.) Laura Blanco, president of Uruguay's Cannabis Studies Association, said the bill has delivered an "encouraging" sign to other Latin American nations. Under the law, citizens will be allowed to cultivate six plants per household or form cooperatives that can grow up to 99 plants. Private companies will also be able to grow pot, with their harvests purchased by the government for resale to licensed pharmacies. However, in a move to prevent cannabis tourism, the legislation restricts legal purchases to citizens of Uruguay.

Calling on senators to approve the bill, President Mujica said: "No one should think implementing this law would create disorder or encourage consumption. Nowhere in the world has repression yielded results. We know we are embarking on a cutting-edge experiment for the whole world."



Afghanistan: Opium-Smuggling Tensions With Iran

A demonstration against Iran took place on August 23 in Afghanistan's western city of Herat, with residents accusing Iranian diplomats at the local consulate of bribing officials and operating as a "criminal gang."

Someone certainly seems to be bribing the police and government officials in Herat province, which borders Iran: Iranian security forces have seized 214 tons of opium and heroin at the Afghan border in the last five months, making hundreds of arrests in the process. A western opium route linking Afghanistan to global markets through Iran appears to be opening, adding to the traditional southern route through the Khyber Pass into Pakistan as well as a northern route through Central Asia.



Colombia: Coca Production Down as Narcos Diversify

The area of land planted with coca leaf in Colombia has fallen by 25 percent and is now about a third of the total in 2001, according to the latest annual report from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The report finds that land planted with coca dropped from 64,000 hectares in 2011 to 48,000 hectares in 2012—the lowest figure since monitoring began in Colombia more than a decade ago. But while coca cultivation fell nationwide, it rose in three departments still especially wracked by armed conflict: Norte de Santander, Chocó and Caquetá. Analysts

also say the fall in coca production suggests that the country's various armed outlaw groups are increasingly moving into areas like illegal gold and emerald mining—both on the upswing in Colombia.

Mexico: Notorious Kingpin Freed

Mexico's most notorious drug kingpin, Rafael Caro Quintero, was released on August 9 from the Puente Grande federal prison in Jalisco state, where he'd been incarcerated for nearly the past three decades. He left the facility at dawn, several hours before the release order was made public. A court in Guadalajara found that Caro Quintero was improperly tried for the 1985 torture-killing of DEA agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, and that charges against him should have been brought at the state rather than the federal level. Federal prosecutors appealed to the Supreme Court, which refused to rescind the



lower court's decision.

Caro Quintero, a founder of the Guadalajara Cartel, was sentenced in 1985 to 40 years in prison—the maximum sentence allowed under Mexican law. He was said to have ordered Camarena's kidnapping, torture and murder in retaliation for a federal police raid on the cartel's giant marijuana plantation at Rancho Búfalo, Chihuahua.

The United States wasn't given prior notification of the release. Indeed, Caro Quintero is still listed as one of the DEA's top five international fugitives, and US authorities believe he continued to control the Sinaloa Cartel's money-laundering operations from behind bars.

Mexico: "Queen of the Pacific" Faces New Charges

The Sinaloa Cartel's Sandra Ávila Beltrán, dubbed the "Queen of the Pacific" by the Mexican press, was released by US authorities on August 21 but faces fresh charges in her home country. A US judge in Miami gave Ávila Beltrán credit for time served on the basis of the five years she'd spent behind bars in Mexico and another year in Florida awaiting sentencing. Even so, she was rearrested upon her arrival back in Mexico, to face new charges of money laundering on behalf of the Sinaloa Cartel.

Ávila Beltrán was detained in Mexico City in 2007 and then extradited to the US last year, where she pled guilty to narcotics trafficking. A cousin of the infamous Rafael Caro Quintero, Ávila Beltrán allegedly forged links between the Mexican and Colombian cartels through her sexual liaisons. She is also the niece of Miguel Angel Felix Gallardo, another legendary founder of the Guadalajara Cartel, who is currently imprisoned in Mexico for his involvement in the murder of DEA agent Enrique Camarena.

In February 2011 the director of the prison where Ávila Beltrán was held was fired for allowing a doctor into her cell to give her Botox injections. 

For updates on these and other stories, see Bill Weinberg's websites, GlobalGanjaReport.com and WorldWar4Report.com.

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Forest Fire

Smoking trees with Arbouretum. *By Polly Watson*

It's a rainy Sunday night at Brooklyn's Union Pool. The open courtyard of the perennial pickup joint is sparsely populated: a few longhairs stand around a small, lily-pad-choked pool, gesturing damply with limp white cigarettes; two Swedish post-teens clink beer bottles, their faces happy and open in the fluorescent pink glow of the taco truck parked next to a small wooden fence. A door creaks, and Arbouretum's Dave Heumann steps out of the steamy club, where the band has just blasted its way through a much-appreciated set, and shambles toward the little truck.

Arbouretum have been growing in Baltimore's fertile rock scene for over a decade. Their most recent lineup solidified in 2009; in addition to Heumann, who holds

down both lead guitar and vocal duties, it includes bassist Corey Allender, drummer Brian "Buck" Carey, and guitarist Matt Pierce. Describing themselves variously (and accurately) as "doom/ecstatic" and "old fire," the band are known from the basements of Charm City to the rafters of Carnegie Hall as purveyors of top-notch slow psychedelia and millennial '70s classic rock.

Wait ... *Carnegie Hall*? "We did an acoustic set" with Band of Horses, says Heumann, sliding a flimsy paper plate of salsa-drenched chicken across a wet picnic table and sitting down in front of it.

"In rehearsal, my hands were shaking a little bit ... and then we got up onstage, and it was fucking magical. It was like: You don't go and get this gig together to get nervous—you

play Carnegie Hall to make it awesome!"

Arbouretum are all about making it awesome. This past year has seen them on a proper European tour, and when *High Times* spoke with them, they were about to leave for the UK to play a raft of festivals.

These guys know how to have fun at home, too. "I recently got back into smoking weed," says Allender, adding, "I like the liquid versions."

It turns out that most of Arbouretum prefer their weed in the form of a tincture made from shake, which they add to

"Tincture is mind-blowing! It's the most mellow high!"

beer. "Or water," says Heumann, producing a vape pen and proceeding to spark up with alarming efficiency, "where the flavor really comes out."

"It's mind-blowing," adds Allender. "It's the most mellow high!"

Like a (thankfully) increasing number of states, Maryland has scaled back its possession laws and "is at the point where you can get a license for medicinal," Carey says.

"But you can still get arrested," cautions Heumann. "It's more like a doctor's note."

The talk turns to the discretionary nature of such arrests. "There were these two cops at a bar where I work," remembers Carey, "and I heard them [talking about finding] weed on a dude, and they were like, 'It's cool, man, whatever—don't worry about it.'" But a Baltimore club owner recently went to jail for selling weed—railroaded, Arbouretum say, by the testimony of people who didn't even know him.

Is there a moral to this tale? Not really, but Heumann has sage words of advice that are useful to those who choose to use and possess within and without Charm City limits: "Don't be a dick to the cops!"

The High Highs and the Low Lows...

Arbouretum's hobbies include sampling wild carnival rides. The latest was Lille, France's Vertical Limit, which hurtles riders 150 feet up before whipping them back to the ground. "It was amazing," says drummer Buck Carey. "I was screwed up for days!"





High in the Hollywood Hills: Dreyer, Wallner, Durst, Michael, Leon

The Devil Gets His Due

White Wizzard conjure killer metal. *By John Payne*

The human juggernaut known as White Wizzard defiantly cranks out a real-deal metallic squeal in thee classic style, harking back to the days of Iron Maiden and Thin Lizzy—songs, melody and good rocking times loom large and reign utterly supreme. These LA-based longhairs banged mightily on *Over the Top* (2010) and *Flying Tigers* (2011), sandwiching metal's requisite fearsome slabs of righteous rifferini in between great loads of way-catchy tunes.

The latest Wizzard wonder, *The Devil's Cut* (Earache Records/Century Media), does it choicely again with a wicked cargo of hummy headbangers, including “Kings of the Highway,” the herculean “The Sun Also Rises” and the faster-than-fast, hair-raisingly complex “Strike the Iron.” And while it seems that fans were carping about the insufficient number of guitar solos on their previous effort (no doubt because bassist Jon Leon did all the ax

work himself on that one), the band's ever-changing lineup has finally settled in with a pair of six-string-shreddin' demons—Jake Dreyer and Will Wallner—who make songs like “Torpedo of Truth” a dual-guitar-solo monsterwerk whose sheer athleticism reaches peaks of, well, insanity.

According to Dreyer, “Torpedo” was conceived as “a powerhouse song to show everybody, ‘Here's our new lineup—we're gonna take everything we've got and put it on 10.’”

Indeed, White Wizzard's new incarnation, which includes founder Leon, singer Joseph Michael and super-drummer Giovanni Durst, lets us know right from the git-go that *Devil's Cut* shall be organic-sounding beast, not prefab horse poo. “It's not Avenged Sevenfold,” says Dreyer. “It goes back to those classic-sounding records, and it also goes back to that ‘If you fuck up, people are gonna

know' thing, so you have to have your stuff down.”

“There's no smoke-and-mirrors,” adds singer Michael. “When you hear a vocal from me, there's no crazy effects, no Auto-Tuning; it's exactly what's coming outta my mouth.”

What's emanating from Michael's mouth are lyrics by Leon, a fella not real big on yer rock critics' de rigueur “overarching lyrical themes” and such. There seem to be a lot of words about flying, soaring high and freedom.

“We're always smiling,” Michael says. “It's all about feelings, or pussy, or something. It's all supposed to make you feel good.”

The White Wizzard boys know all about feeling

good—though partaking of weed before hitting the stage is an iffy proposition, apparently.

“Psychedelics are good for the stage,” Dreyer says. “I did mushrooms once, and that was an interesting experience. But smoking or eating cannabis before a show, you end up staring at the wave pattern of the cymbals too much.”

“I had to stop smoking and switch to edibles a few years ago,” Michael says, “because a lot of the stuff I sing has ridiculous range, and all the top end is gone after one hit.”

Michael likes to write while under the influence of Cali-style dark chocolate: “It's way more of a body high, but the visuals are deeper. When you smoke, you get all these little light flashes outta the corner of your eye, but it's superficial. When you do edibles, it makes you kind of forget your surroundings—everything you're experiencing is going deep inside.”



A Healthy High

“We were on tour and we went to this dude's house and he had this vaporizer,” says vocalist Joseph Michael. “We made two trips to McDonalds. Jake got 40 Chicken McNuggets. He picked off all the bread-ing and ate the chicken. He didn't want the carbs.”



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California Screamin'

West Coast rockers Apache roll some fat East Coast Js. *By Andy Animal*



Buzz band:
Allen,
Hernandez,
Rincon,
Palacios

I don't wanna be known as one of those music-writer guys who constantly throw around the obvious and overused word "infectious," but what is just as infectious as Apache's music, Chicano dialect/Bay Area slang and all-around good vibe is their need for weed. Whenever I'm out west rollin' around with these crazy fools, it seems like the only sensible thing to do is to get skroached as fuck all day, every day.

Apache front man Omar "Mijo" Hernandez and bass player Carlos "Chuck" Palacios grew up in El Paso, TX, on the soldest of golden-oldie doo-wops. Finding themselves in San Francisco, these righteous burnouts started churning out groovy, throbbing, glittery punk rock. The rest of Apache consists of lead guitarist Nick Allen (whom I have trouble picturing in my mind without his mirrored aviators), rhythm

"[Delivering weed], everyone's pretty fucking happy to see you. They give me candy."

guitarist Ray Seraphin (who was MIA for this smoke-down because he had to fly back home the previous day, where he may or may not attend summer school—as in high-school summer school), and dapper drummer Dan Rincon.

Dan and Omar work in marijuana for a living. It being the West Coast, it is, of course, completely legal (at least when it comes to medical use), as well as completely mesmerizing to us folks back east. The session seen in the photos here consisted of us smoking a \$250 salad comprising different types of delightful East Coast skroach that was delivered to

us about 15 minutes before this all began.

Andy: How do you feel now that *High Times* has brought me to you?

Omar: I'm fuckin' stoned right now, dude—that's how I feel. They just gave us a bunch of weed to smoke.

Andy: Dan, you work at a—

Dan: I work as a medical marijuana delivery driver in San Francisco, at the Vapor Room. I drive around all day taking weed to patients.

Andy: What kind of people? How do you feel the whole vibe is all around?

Dan: Everyone's pretty fucking happy to see you, you know? They give me candy and shit. It's cool—some guy

brings me muffins with, like, bacon and stuff on them. Everyone's super-stoked.

Andy: So this is totally legal?

Omar: In California!

Dan: Yeah, I'm licensed.

Chuck: I'm licensed to have weed.

Omar: I'm not, but I just roll joints for a living.

Andy: How do you guys feel about the term "skroached" that we use on the East Coast?

Dan: What does it mean?

Chuck: Sounds like "scrogging" to me, which is—

Omar: Yeah, which is fucking, right?

Andy: "Skroached" just kind of became the word that we used for weed or a roach, so "getting skroached" or "Let's smoke some skroach" or "Yo, man, I'm skroached out!"

Omar: Hey, man, I'm bilingual, I can deal with that.

Chuck: We say "jay-ter."

Nick: You light a "Darth Jay-der."

Omar: We come to New York and everyone's like, "Maaaan, you guys like weed!" Everyone's shocked.

Nick: How much more weed do we smoke than everybody here?

Whole band: A lot! So much, like 50 million times more, 70 million bong hits more!

Omar: That's the thing, no one smokes bongs in New York—no one has a bong! That really irks me!

Chuck: And there's bong stores everywhere!

Omar: You guys spend all your money on alcohol. 



Roofies

"The first time I got high me and two friends climbed onto the top of this elementary school, where nobody could see us. We smoked six or seven Js in a row. We ended up having to wait there for five hours until we weren't so high so we could climb down."

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Stockholm Syndrome

Svensk punks take prisoners

The self-titled debut from Sweden's Holograms was a revelation in fist-pumping post-punk, led by "ABC City," a pulsating chant that rhymed "desolation" with "isolation." The fact that these noisemakers were signed, seemingly out of nowhere, to the influential (if shoegazey) indie imprint Captured Tracks only contributed to their mystique.

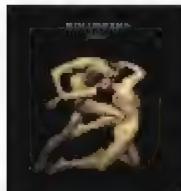
Swedish polar nights can wreak havoc on your seasonal-affective disorder, and Holograms' cynicism was compounded by the hard times that befell the band last year. While the foursome were on tour, someone broke into their van and made off with their instruments, leaving the band stranded in France for two weeks with no dough. They took some consolation in the fact that, although they were cash-poor, *Holograms*—an album teeming with choppy, mercurial anthems—earned them a treasure trove of critical high-fives.

About a year later, Holograms are already releasing their follow-up, *Forever*. No less mercurial in theme, the album is more ambitious, the jagged guitars softened to yield a record that's more full-bodied than simply

loud, allowing the band to avoid the sophomore trap of "more of the same." While die-hards may miss the garage-rock sound that characterized the band's debut, *Forever* manages to make sense of their multifarious expressions of cynicism.

The album's first single, "Flesh and Bone," is an existential lament that filters '90s-era Cure through an amphetamine-powered echo chamber. In the context of *Forever*, it also serves as a prelude to other ear-perking curiosities, such as the sweeping, powered-down "Åtestupa" and the revved-up "Rush," which oscillates between noise rock and Arcade Fire-esque luminescence.

But it's the anthemic "Meditations" that most viscerally bridges Holograms' penchant for angst and melody. A descendant of early Bauhaus—all doom, gloom and spiky riffs—the track stews in a mantra of "Destruction!" propelled by discordant guitars. The pitfalls of mortality never sounded so alive. *Nisha Gopalan*



Holograms
Forever
(Captured Tracks)

MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS



Dustin Wong
Meditation of Ecstatic Energy
(Thrill Jockey)

The former Ponytail/Ecstatic Sunshine ax-man brings the third in a trilogy of works that envision a new architecture for guitar, voice and digital-delay effects. Extending beyond the merely mesmeric into the jarringly mind-mushrooming, Wong's million melodic motifs are layered, distorted,

looped and octave-divided to create a sonic universe wherein closely interwoven guitar structures collapse into clanky polyrhythms. Delivered with awe-inspiring precision—and a welcome touch of aggression—Wong's brand of bliss basks in beaming rays of aural light. *John Payne*



Subsets
Ape Facin'
(7-inch)
(Granado Records)

Hailing from the great state of Ohio, it's the Subsets, Cincinnati's newest reason to pay attention—and you will pay dearly. This four-track EP (they still make records? Blah, blah, for the millionth time: Yes! THEY NEVER STOPPED!) is a full-on rager, hitting you hard and brilliantly,

leaving you stunned and ready to commit mind-crimes. The jams themselves are anthems full of First Midwest angst, day-to-day drudgery, isolation and desperation. Subsets bring on the punk-rock shitting with strong and healthy doses of Agent Orange, Germs and the Ramones. *Shawn Abnoxious*



Believer/Law
Matters of Life and Death
(Chondritic Sound)

Though the songs on this debut album from the New York-based industrial-electronic band Believer/Law are aggressive in their approach, with distorted, angry vocals, the melodies that support them are strangely uplifting. Imagine your favorite UK Oi band performing their songs with

drum machines and analog synthesizers. The progressions may be composed of only two or three chords per song, but the sounds are intensely layered, keeping the album engaging. This is a record that could be danced to in a foggy goth club, or fought to in a British football stadium. *Soren Roi*



Nervous
Nervous
(Twelve Gauge Records)

Guys, guys, guys, an acquaintance of mine broke his dick banging this summer! And that's not half as fucked up as this feral, fuzz-shot slab! Single-pitch howling scrawled over bitter Hüsker Dü guitars ("Birthday Party") and gravelly, discordant Laughing Hyenas sludge ("Vulture") tears

through Reagan years, Bush era, and arrives in a cold blur of current destruction. No parties here, just a frantic bathroom-cabinet search for painkillers. To quote top track "Day Off" (and possibly Mr. Wrecked Joint five minutes before dialing 911): "No matter how I try, I'm gonna ruin the evening!" *Polly Watson*

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



Humboldt: Life on America's Marijuana Frontier
Emily Brady
(Grand Central Publishing)

Started back in the days when California's failed Proposition 19 legalization initiative loomed over the Golden State, Brady's book follows the lives of four Humboldt County residents from varied backgrounds, including a frustrated lawyer and an original "back-to-the-lander." Through

these diverse characters, we get a well-rounded look at the culture of the Emerald Triangle; however, like Proposition 19 itself, the stories are engaging but anticlimactic. Still, as Brady herself summarizes, the book is "a snapshot in time of a place called Humboldt." *Mary Ought Six*



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Surrender.

MUNCHIES**Fieldmouse's Killer Brownies**

Mix 'n' munch with maximum MJ.

When I asked a friend for the recipe for some drop-dead brownies of which I had vague, beautiful memories, he sent me to the source: Sammy, a.k.a. Fieldmouse, and his lovely wife behind the flavors, Lisa. Lisa generously offered to bring me over a brownie and a few yummy "Fieldmouse bites" (heart-shaped kief/crumb candies) along with the recipe. Awesomeness warning: These are not your typical pot brownies.

These brownies were originally concocted to prove a point. "Fieldmouse," it turns out, was Sammy's walkie-talkie

code name when he and a friend would go magic-mushroom hunting. Clearly a psychonaut, the cunning Fieldmouse—when challenged as to whether marijuana has psychedelic properties—quadrupled the standard 1-ounce dose for his brownie recipe and soon sent heads flying into space. Over time, Lisa smoothed out its texture and tweaked the flavor to divine.

The recipe comes with the following warning: "Consumer beware—these brownies are not for the novice! Proceed with caution; take one bite at a time and leave 20 minutes between bites."

I have to concur. Despite my surprise that the cannabis wasn't extracted prior to cooking, I ate about a fifth of an a brownie and was more than chillaxed for hours on end, which actually was quite a feat. Lisa had caught me on a hectic day, my mind bouncing off the walls.

Within half an hour of sampling, however, all my anxiety subsided and I began the drift into peaceful, amazing space...

Mary Ought Six

KILLER BROWNIES

4 oz. finely ground shake
1 family-size box fudge brownie mix
½ cup oil
¼ cup water
2 large eggs
¾ cup Irish cream or Kahlúa
1 cup M&Ms
1 cup butterscotch chips
1 stick butter
1 cup packed golden brown sugar

from the edge comes out clean. (Make sure you don't skewer a candy!) Cool for at least 20 minutes.

While the brownies are cooling, it's time to get started on the delicious topping. Melt the butter in a saucepan over medium-low heat. Add the brown sugar, and stir continuously until a caramel consistency is achieved. Drizzle over the top of the brownies and allow to cool completely, then cut into nine monster-size brownies. Fieldmouse's advice: "Share your first brownie with three friends before going solo with the ultimate dessert: one brownie warmed in the microwave and topped with vanilla ice cream and hot fudge. Enjoy!" Stones 9 to 45 ... so use your best judgment!

Preheat the oven to 325°F and coat an 8" x 8" pan with cooking spray. In a large bowl, mix together the shake, brownie mix, oil, water and eggs. The mixture will be stiff, so add the liqueur and mix well; then add the M&Ms and butterscotch chips and give the batter one last good mixing. Next, pour evenly into the prepared pan. Bake for 50 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted two inches

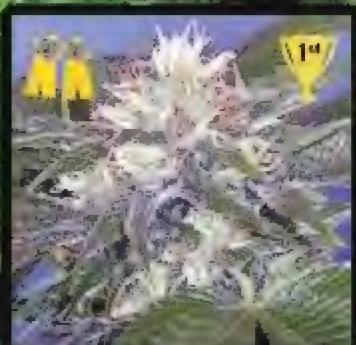
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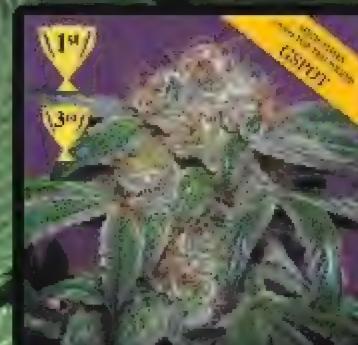
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FUCKING INCREDIBLE High Times Top 50 Strains 2008

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Eve	\$75
Fucking Incredible	\$140
Gold	\$75
GSPOT	\$105
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The Legend of the BURMESE See High Times January 2009

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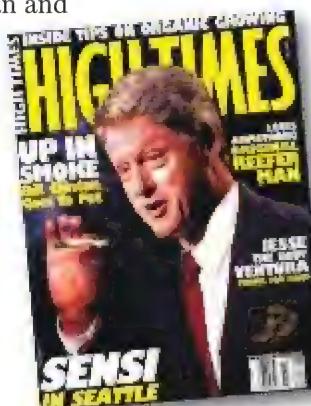
The Prez & Our Cover

The men who hold the nation's highest office often persecute pot smokers.

IN OUR 40-YEAR history, *High Times* has witnessed the administrations of eight US Presidents. The magazine debuted in 1974 just months prior to Nixon's resignation, and has withstood the virulent anti-pot policies spawned by Ronald Reagan and continued on through the Clinton years, two Bush administrations and the Obama presidency.

Throughout all of those years, only three Presidents have appeared on our cover. Jimmy Carter made it in 1978, as a scandal alleging that some of his staffers had used cocaine swirled around the White House. Our grotesque illustration of Jimmy with a spoon up his nose ranks as one of our highest-selling covers ever.

In 1992 George H.W. Bush appeared, along with his Vice President Dan Quayle, as he unsuccessfully ran for a second term. At that time the country was pretty much "lost in space" as to what direction it was heading in. Fittingly, Bush and Quayle were depicted as dad George and son Elroy of *The Jetsons*, piloting their spaceship.



I lost my head over our Bill Clinton cover—literally. You see, I was the model. I posed in a suit with a joint in my hand. Then, art director Frank Max lopped off my head and replaced it with Bubba's melon. The cover line, "Bill Clinton Goes to Pot," was meant to reflect Bill's near-impeachment in his second term. Our subtle implication was that perhaps pot would help him through his troubles.

The fact is, though, his administration was as tough on pot smokers as any other, Democratic or Republican. But what really irked us about Clinton was the interview he did with *Rolling Stone* just weeks before leaving office, wherein he stated people should not be jailed for using or selling small amounts of cannabis.

Isn't it great to have these revelations after the fact—when thousands have suffered at the hands of your policy, and you have no power to change it?

We look forward to the day when we put a President on the cover for a reason we can celebrate. *Dan Skye*

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Newark, DE

MARKET ANALYSIS

Prices by the ounce

The US Price, Kind and Schwag indices all opened 2014 below their previous month's average. The US Price Index experienced the biggest drop, falling \$21 to a four-month low of \$323. Meanwhile, the Mids Index kicked off the new year \$12 above its December average. Strawberry Cough made the top five most-submitted strains for the first time since April 2013.

US Price Index
YTD Average: \$323



Kind Index
YTD Average: \$379



Mids Index
YTD Average: \$298



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"The market has really taken off in the deep South. Our rich topsoil and excellent climate help with many different varieties!"

Jackson, MS

Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan

Schwag Index
YTD Average: \$94



TRANS HIGH MARKET QUOTATIONS

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
Alaska	Anchorage	White Widow	\$330
		AK-47	240
Arizona	Phoenix	Strawberry Cough	300
Arkansas	El Dorado	Spoetnik #1	400
		Great White Shark	420
California	Los Angeles	The Church	300
	San Francisco	Tahoe OG	325
Colorado	Boulder	Golden Goat	300
	Denver	OG Ghost Train Haze	350
Delaware	Newark	Afgooye	360
		Blue City Diesel	370
Florida	Tampa	Alaskan Thunderfuck	330
Maryland	Baltimore	Headband	375
Massachusetts	Boston	Sour Diesel	400
Michigan	Traverse City	Querkle	330
Minnesota	St. Paul	OG Kush	375
Mississippi	Jackson	Hindu Kush	350
Missouri	Saint Robert	OG Kush	400
New Hampshire	Portsmouth	Chem Dog	425
New Jersey	Hoboken	Skywalker OG	400
	Jersey Shore	Orange Kush	300
New York	New York	Guava Chem	400
	Brooklyn	Strawberry Cough	420
North Carolina	Charlotte	Plushberry	425
Ohio	Columbus	Sour Diesel	350
Oregon	Portland	Lavender	230
Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	Grape Ape	360
Rhode Island	Providence	Vortex	350
Tennessee	Nashville	White Widow	400
Texas	Austin	Panama Red	300
Vermont	Burlington	Super Silver Haze	360
Virginia	Richmond	Strawberry Cough	350
		Northern Lights	325
Washington	Seattle	Cheese	300
		Harlequin	275
Wisconsin	Milwaukee	Diesel	300
		Great White Shark	275

INTERNATIONAL

Australia	Perth	OG Ghost Train Haze	AU\$350
		LSD	360
Canada	Vancouver	Jack Herer	C\$210
Netherlands	Breda	Power Plant	\$340
		Buddha Cheese	400

High Times wants to know what you're smoking. Submit your strain information including location and price by the ounce to thmq@hightimes.com - or tweet us (#THMQ).

(Headband)
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2 Vapor Essence

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Portable vaporizers are making many strides, but few of the vapes or pens on the market have what it takes to combine stealth with style. The Ascent Vaporizer by Da Vinci utilizes glass-on-glass technology and works with herbs and oils. The digital display allows you to dial in the perfect temperature for the heating element, and the three-plus hours of battery life ensure proper vaping.

3 One-Hit Wonder

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Whether you call them one-hitters, bats or “oneies,” they’re a must for outdoor consumption in places where discretion is of the essence. The slim Black Box from Titanium Deviations features a 3/8" thick titanium bat with a larger storage capacity than traditional wooden boxes. A built-in titanium poker ensures that the one-hitter stays in proper working condition. There’s also a smaller version called the Little Black Box (5/16" thick).

4 All Aboard!

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Here at *High Times*, we’re proud to support stoner-owned and -operated businesses. Even better is three such companies collaborating on a useful product. The new Dab Station brings together Dab Tools from Happy Daddy as well as Slick Stack containers and an Oil Slick pad, all encased in a beautiful wooden case made by Myo Mr. Keifbox, to help out in your hash-oil travels.

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Redman kicks off the Seattle Cup concert.



Seedless in Seattle

Thousands celebrated sensible pot policy at the second U.S. Cannabis Cup. *By Mike Hughes*

Headliners Slightly Stoopid brought a laid-back Ocean Beach vibe to the Emerald City.



DAN SKYE, KIM SIDWELL

You know, I just have to say 'Thank you!' to everyone in Washington who made this possible."

That feeling of deep appreciation, expressed by a Cup attendee who drove to Seattle from Idaho to try her first dab, was prevalent at the second-ever High Times U.S. Cannabis Cup. After all, the U.S. Cups—open to every adult age 21 and older regardless of medical status or residency—were made possible by the successful, voter-approved legalization efforts in Colorado and Washington in November 2012. The very next year, throngs of cannabis enthusiasts from all over the world were able to gather and celebrate legal weed in those two states, and the debt of gratitude owed to everyone involved was palpable.

After drawing record crowds with the premiere of the U.S. Cannabis Cup in Denver over the 4/20 weekend, *High*



The Dank Dabber girls question the crowd.

DO YOU DAB?

DO YOU DAB?

Greenside Medical took third place in the Edible category.

Times rolled out the second-ever U.S. Cup in Seattle, Sept. 7-8. And while Denver was a balls-out frenzy of THC worship, Seattle was positively serene.

Freemont Studios once again played host to the expo portion of the event, after having provided an excellent home for the 2012 Seattle Medical Cannabis Cup. This time, however, the venue opened up an additional 30,000 square feet of space, leaving the 5,000 attendees who made the journey to the Pacific Northwest with plenty of room to roam.

Vendor booths were booming, giving away as many free dabs as the concentrate-curious could keep down in the designated smoking area, while Cup stalwarts like the Cali Connection, Pink House and Grassroots showed off their coveted wares. And although the new recreational-use aspect of the Cup received an abundance of buzz, Washington medical patients found plenty of support as the state's finest dispensaries extolled the virtues of their tinctures, edibles and potent, locally grown bud.

Inside Freemont Studios, the pleasantly medicated (or recreated) attendees took in seminars on a variety of

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NORML founder Keith Stroup poses with HT award winner Rick Steves.



Vendors keep the free dabs coming.



The Cloud Penz crew entice Cup-goers.



Swerve from the Best Booth winning Cali Connection tosses free merch to attendees.

topics—everything from marijuana's role in social media to the pros and cons of butane-extracted hash oil. *High Times* senior cultivation editor Danny Danko hosted a pair of panels featuring insights from expert growers, and hometown hero Rick Steves discussed the intricacies of legal weed in Washington.

The Saturday night Cup concert was *HT*'s most ambitious show to date. The Cali Connection-hosted event went down at the massive WaMu Theater, situated between the Mariners' Safeco Field and the Seahawks' CenturyLink stadium. The show offered something for everyone as hip-hop demigod Redman got the crowd moving early and stoner-reggae royalty Slightly Stoopid closed things out with an unforgettable, high-energy set.

The Sunday-night awards ceremony honored the true stars of the Cup: the top pot, hash and edibles. Several dispensaries took home prizes in multiple categories: TJ's Organic Gardens (first-place *sativa*, third-place *indica*), Only the Best (first-place *indica*, third-place hybrid), the Fweedom Collective (first-place hybrid, second-place *sativa*) and the VFL Collective (first-place concentrate, third-place non-solvent hash). There were also winners in two U.S. Cup categories

"take quick, easy, flavorful, big wax and oil hits"

flickcombustion.com review

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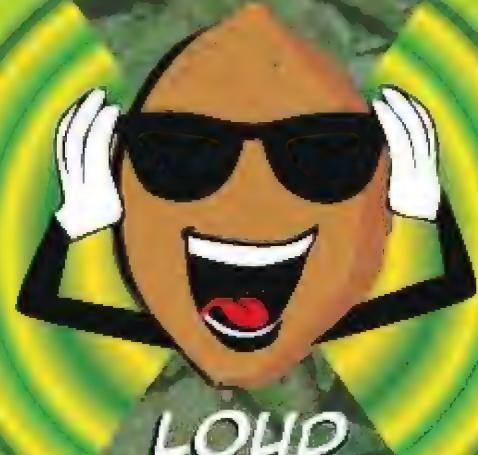
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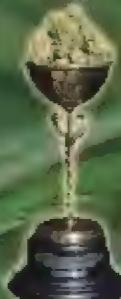


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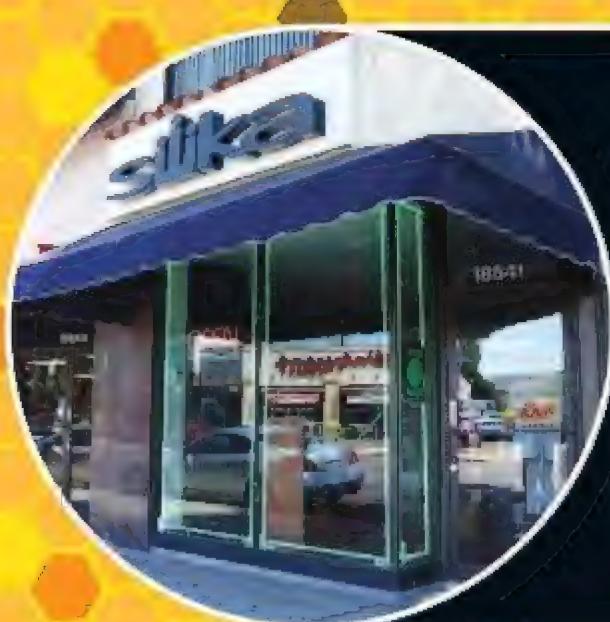
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Kush Kake Pops are a creative cannabis confection.



Pink House provides a smoking lounge for those Down to Blaze.

making their Seattle debut: Kushman Genetics' Veganic Strawberry Cough earned top honors in the U.S. Flower category, and Gold Coast Extracts' Whitewalker OG was named best in show for U.S. Hash.

Seattle area-based travel guru and PBS television personality Rick Steves was presented with the Dr. Lester Grinspoon Lifetime Achievement Award for his outspoken advocacy of marijuana. Steves is a longtime supporter of the right to light up, and his tireless efforts on behalf of legalized pot in Washington made him a very worthy recipient of this high honor. Steves addressed the crowd with uplifting words of encouragement. His message: Never stop fighting for our favorite plant.

When the smoke finally cleared in the wake of the Seattle U.S. Cannabis Cup, one thing was incredibly clear: Washington State has and will continue to set the standard for sensible and tolerant pot policy. And that's something for which we should all be thankful. 



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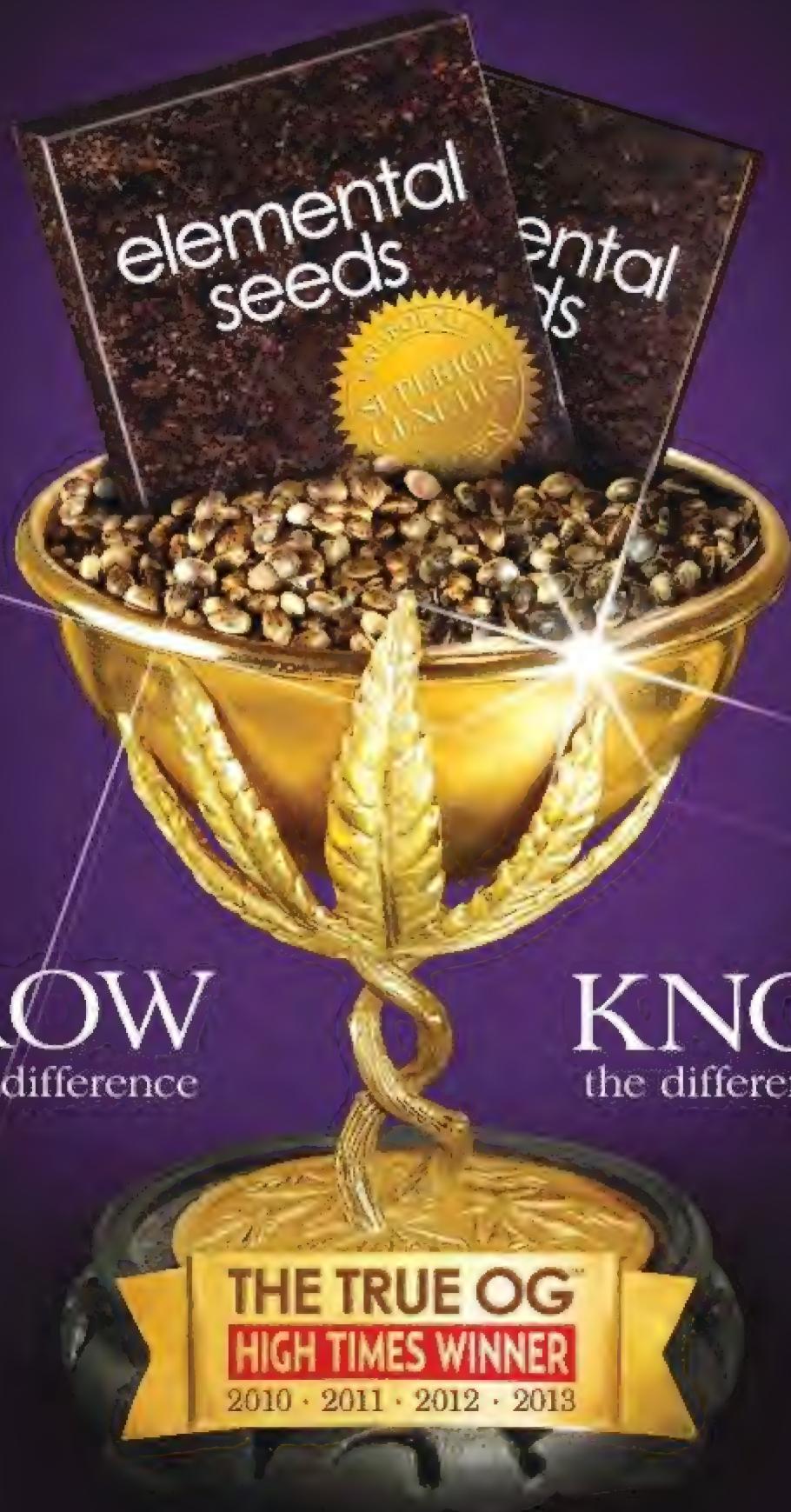
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Bigfoot presents the award for Best Booth.



Only The Best (OTB) celebrates their first place indica prize.



Gold Coast Extracts won the first-ever Seattle U.S. Hash Cup for their Whitewalker OG.

THE WINNERS

BEST SATIVA

1. TJ's Platinum Label by TJ's Organic Gardens
2. Tres Dawg by Fweedom Collective
3. OG Ghost Train Haze #1 by A Greener Today

BEST INDICA

1. True OG by Only The Best (OTB)
2. Star Dawg by Evergreen Patient Network
3. TJ's Purple Label by TJ's Organic Gardens

BEST HYBRID

1. Ewok by Fweedom Collective
2. Jack One (aka Rebel Alliance) by Triple Mega
3. El Jeffe by Only The Best (OTB)

BEST CONCENTRATE

1. H.G.H. Goji OG Overshatter by VFL Collective
2. OG Thin Mints by Gold Coast Extracts
3. After Life OG Honeycomb by Exotic Genetix

BEST NON-SOLVENT HASH

1. Dynasty OG Solventless by Urban Healing Collective & Green Masons
2. Orange LifeSaver by Stay Concentrated
3. BAMF Lemon OG Solventless by VFL Collective

BEST EDIBLE

1. Day Dreamers High CBD Chocolate Bar by SJ Patients Group
2. Be The Light Golden Frankincense Truffle by Cheffettes
3. Ettalew's Medibles Sampler by Greenside Medical

BEST U.S. FLOWER

1. Veganic Strawberry Cough by Kushman Genetics/Buds & Roses LA
2. Uncle Jim by Camo Collective Gardens
3. Master Yoda by Kush Connection

BEST U.S. HASH

1. Whitewalker OG by Gold Coast Extracts
2. Killer Bee OG by Brutal Bee Concentrates & Precision Oil Tech
3. H.G.H. Goji O.G. by VFL Collective

HIGH CBD

FLOWER: Catatonic by Elemental Wellness Center - San Jose
CONCENTRATE: CBD Simple by Phytosphere Systems
EDIBLE: C.B. Can-D Lollies by MTG Seeds

BEST NON-EDIBLE MEDICALLY-INFUSED PRODUCT

Kush Creams Kit by Kush Creams

BEST BOOTH

1. Cali Connection
2. California Finest
3. Oilslick

BEST PRODUCT

1. Oilslick
2. California Finest Medical Marijuana Cigarettes
3. 710 Kan

BEST GLASS

1. Sasquatch Glass
2. Get Connected - Cali Connection
3. Silika Glass

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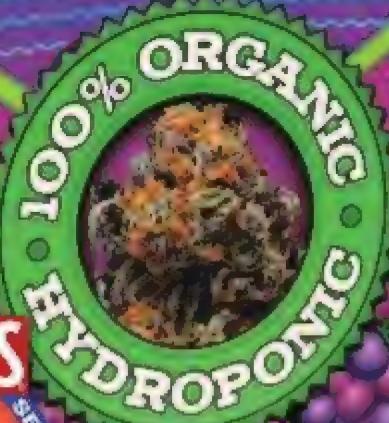
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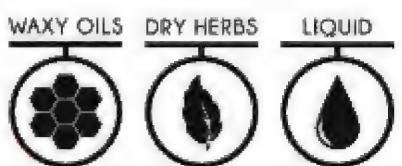
DRY CONFIGURATION



WAXY OIL HEATING / FILLING CONFIGURATION



LIQUID CONFIGURATION

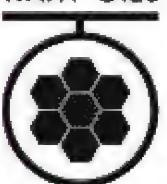


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WHITE RHINO



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HIGH TIMES 2014 Vapor Pen Buyer's Guide

Compiled by the High Times Editorial Staff

Since our first pen-sized vaporizer review was published last fall, it's been one of the most viewed and referenced features on our website. It seems a lot of you out there want to buy vapor pens, and you look to us to tell you which ones to get. Well, we take that responsibility seriously, and with the flood of new pens on the market, we figured it was high time for round two.

Our expert staff reviewed and rated 32 different devices based on their durability, versatility, hit/pull, stealth, style and ease of fill. We broke the products into categories by size: standard (most first-generation vapor pens), short (same width/style as standard but with shorter batteries/tanks), minis (a flatter, smaller style typical of second-generation pens), cigars (fatter/longer than standard pens) and slims (slimmer than standard pens—comparable to a cigarette).

Most of the products reviewed are for wax or shatter-style concentrates only, but a few can accommodate flowers or even oil. Some standard and short pens boast a new development—a glass globe that attaches to the battery, rather than a standard tank.

These globes seem to allow more smoke to collect, allowing for bigger

hits, with the added cool effect of getting to watch the vape process. The downside, of course, is that they're less stealthy.

The pros and cons listed are taken directly from testers' comments; the ratings are on a scale from 0 to 20, with 20 being perfect (none were). Rather than award first, second and third places, we decided to bestow several honors based on different criteria. This way, you can choose the best pen for you depending on what you value most. For instance, while stealth may be paramount to you at a concert, or in a region with strict cannabis laws, medical cardholders or those in a legal state might care less about hiding their usage and more about getting the biggest, smoothest hit they can.

We hope that the information provided will make it easy for you to choose the right vape for you. No matter which device you choose, be sure to read the instructions carefully to ensure safe and effective usage, and fully charge the battery unit before the first use to establish long battery life. Many of the companies have produced instructional videos to help familiarize consumers with their products, so be sure to check out their websites for further info.

Happy vaping!

—Bobby Black

Standard

We define a "standard" pen as the battery/base unit with screw-on tank attachments that has been the predominant style in the industry. Many of these are even interchangeable with other standard units from different brands.



1. The Dabbler by Vapor Brothers

Kit includes: Battery unit, metal heating unit, metal tank, plastic mouthpiece, glass dabber, folding USB charger, cigarette-style carrying case, user guide

Options: Black and silver; filigree

Use with: Wax

Distinguishing characteristics: Unique animal-print design; no plastics or toxins in or around the heater—no toxic off-gassing of chromium; Vapor Brothers' warranty and customer service: replacement at no cost, no registration required

Pros: Stylish leopard-print base; nice design; really easy to pack; nice material—feels super reliable; pulls well, overall nice to use; delivers a solid hit; you can barely even tell you're smoking it; doesn't get really hot

Cons: A little big and flashy, heavy, conspicuous; not great for stealth

Rating: 16.38

Price: \$119 (see website for other pricing)

Website: vape-pen.com; vaporbrothers.com

2. Buddy Pen 3-in-1 by Vaporite

Kit includes: Battery unit, metal flower tank with metal screen chamber, rubber mouthpiece with ceramic filter, glass oil tank with plastic mouthpiece, glass wax tank with rubber lid, metal sheath, plastic mouthpiece, USB charger, small metal dabber, cleaning brush, user guide

Options: Pro (flowers only, glass screens); 3-in-1 (flowers, wax, liquid)

Use with: Flowers, wax, liquid

Distinguishing characteristics: N/A

Pros: Good flower smoke; sturdy, feels like it would be difficult to break

Cons: A bit too big, bulky; stopper inside is a pain to get out of chamber; have to hold down for a second or two before you can get a hit

Rating: 13.25

Price: \$54.99 (Pro-\$79.99, 3-in-1-\$139.99)

Website: vaporitevapes.com

3. V.I.P. P-Dab

Kit includes: Battery unit, metal tank with plastic mouthpiece, replacement tank with metal mouthpiece, small metal dabber, USB charger, user guide

Use with: Wax

Distinguishing characteristics: One-year warranty on batteries and charger; new Essence Atomizer replaceable heating element

Pros: Target-style design; hits well, hard; feels durable
Cons: Kind of difficult to load—chamber is too deep, heating mechanism is too far away from opening of pen; hard to get material onto the atomizer; not great for stealth

Rating: 13.62

Price: \$110 (two-battery kit: \$140)

Website: vipvape.com

4. Trippy Stix 2.0

Kit includes: Battery unit, metal tank, plastic "trippy tip" mouthpiece (option: metal mouthpiece), USB charger, optional glass liquid tank, user guide

Use with: Wax, liquid (additional option)

Distinguishing characteristics: Unique, patented glass chamber; huge variety of custom and limited edition designs (see website for various styles)

Pros: Colors are cool; works well with shatter; hits really well
Cons: Not the easiest to load—deep chamber, hard to fill; can't get wax onto the heat source easily

Rating: 15.33

Price: \$120

Website: trippystix.com

5. Cannastick

Kit includes: Battery unit, atomizer, USB charger, rubber mouthpiece, standard tank, tank tip with screen, metal dabber with cleaning brush, user guide

Options: Disposable, oil, original, mini, glass, dry herb Vari-Volt

Use with: Flowers

Distinguishing characteristics: Machine-coiled atomizers (vs. hand-wrapped coils)

Pros: N/A

Cons: Bulky, heavy; felt cheap; hard to hit; have to hold down the button a substantially long time before you hit it; didn't pull well; needs improving

Rating: 10.62

Price: Dry Herb Vari-Volt starter Kit - \$65

Website: cannastick.com

6. Daborizer Vapor Wand

Kit includes: Battery unit, steel chamber with ceramic bowl; glass globe and nail chamber, USB charger, steel double-sided dabber, replacement heating element, solar charger

Options: Regular unit; longer unit with digital hit counter

Use with: Wax

Distinguishing characteristics: N/A

Pros: Feels durable; massive hits; cool hit counter; solar charger

Cons: Not practical—too big, long, heavy; far from stealthy—can't fit it in a small purse or your pocket, when you hold it in your hand there's a few inches of the pen sticking out; could only use this pen in a private place; looks like a magic wand

Rating: 15.38

Price: N/A

Website: daborizer.com

7. Source Globe

Kit includes: Battery unit with digital LED battery meter, USB charger, small metal dabber, globe, plastic mouthpiece, replacement heating element, info card

Use with: Wax

Distinguishing characteristics: LED battery meter

Pros: Cool glass dome; easy to fill; battery charge display; big pulls; nice for at-home use

Cons: Concentrate falls below coil; didn't like as much as other globe models

Rating: 15.92

Price: \$49.99 (Globe-\$24.99, sold separately)

Website: sourcevapes.com

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Standard



8



9



10



11



12



13

8. Hippy Trips

Kit includes: User manual, battery unit, standard tank, heating element, two magnetic atomizers, USB charger, custom glass mouthpiece

Use with: Wax

Distinguishing characteristics: Magnetic atomizer; tie-dye box; interesting color schemes
Pros: Cool tie-dye packaging; funky designs; well constructed; easy to use; interchangeable magnetic atomizer super easy to replace
Cons: Magnetic atomizer comes loose easily, breaks connection, unreliable; too long and flashy; mouthpiece gets stuck

Rating: 15.6

Price: \$120

Website: hippytrips.com

9. Pulsar 7 by AFG Distribution

Kit includes: Battery unit, metal flower tank, metal sheath with screen, two rubber mouth tips, USB charger with wall adapter, two cleaning brushes, metal 3-in-1 tool, user guide

Options: Pulsar 7 (flowers), Vortex (wax); Stylus (oil); Ninja (wax)

Use with: Flowers (See above for other options)

Distinguishing characteristics: N/A

Pros: Sleek design; hits well once it's hot; burns clean

Cons: Takes a while to heat up; have to hold forever; somewhat hard to hit; outside metal gets super-hot to the touch—can burn yourself; looks like rectal thermometer

Rating: 13.29

Price: Pulsar 7 - \$79.99 (see website for other models)

Website: pulsarvapes.com

10. STAG by Vapor Co

Kit includes: Battery unit, atomizer, metal tank, metal mouthpiece, small metal dabber, USB charger, globe, atomizer, plastic mouthpiece

Use with: Wax

Distinguishing characteristics: N/A

Pros: Solid pen—feels very durable; element heats up fast; hits pretty well

Cons: A bit heavy, chamber is too deep, hard to load; the way it loads makes the type of wax you can use limited, not versatile

Rating: 15.54

Price: \$55

Website: stagvapor.com

Short

A “short” pen has the same width as a standard pen but with a shorter battery unit and/or shorter screw-on tank attachments. Usually interchangeable with other standard units.

11. W-Pen by White Rhino

Kit includes: Battery unit, glass tank with metal funnel/drain, metal tank sheath, plastic mouthpiece, metal cap, USB charger with wall adapter, small metal dabber

Use with: Wax

Distinguishing characteristics: Unique metal funnel shape inside chamber

Pros: Interesting loading mechanism; funnel shape inside the chamber collects concentrate and drips it down onto atomizer, ensuring all material gets heated; hits strong

Cons: Not great for stealth; have to really make sure it's packed in there

Rating: 15.65

Price: \$89.99

Website: whiterhinoproducts.com

12. V.I.P. Mini

Kit includes: Battery unit, metal tank with plastic mouthpiece, replacement tank with metal mouthpiece, small metal dabber, USB charger, user guide

Use with: Wax

Distinguishing characteristics: N/A

Pros: Great heat/hit, fast, solid; stylish psychedelic pattern

Cons: Tough to load—hard to get material onto the heat source; chamber is too big—not really a mini; felt cheap; pretty much the same thing as the regular V.I.P. model

Rating: 14.88

Price: \$85 (\$110 for two-pen kit)

Website: vipvape.com

13. G-Box / G-Coil by Grenco Science

Kit includes: Battery unit, small metal tank, plastic mouthpiece with two metal screens, two concentrate jars, two USB chargers with wall adapter, “G-Tips” cleaning cotton swabs, small metal “G” dabber, user guide

Options: G-Coil, Herbal Vaporizer, Essential Oil Tank

Use with: Wax (see above for other options)

Distinguishing characteristics: Artist Series—collaborations with Action Bronson, The Game, Snoop Dogg, HUF Worldwide; Charity Series—portion of net proceeds donated to nonprofit organizations; one-year warranty

Pros: Hits well and is durable; nice solid pen

Cons: Slow to heat; kind of big; filling process could be improved—refill spot is too deep; outer case moves too much—didn't feel secure when closed after refill

Rating: 15.62

Price: \$69.95 - \$99.99

Website: gencoscience.com; gpen.com

www.T-Vape.com

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Short



14

BEST HIT
BEST OVERALL PEN

15



MOST AFFORDABLE PEN

16



**MOST UNIQUE:
TEAPOT GLOBE**

17



18



19

14. Micro Vaped V2

Kit includes: Battery unit, metal tank, metal mouthpiece, two atomizers, info card, slip-on clip with lanyard, plastic mouthpiece, USB charger with wall adapter

Use with: Wax

Distinguishing characteristics: Cannabis Cup winner—3rd place best product

Pros: Cool titanium mouthpiece and coil mechanism; charge slot right in bottom; great hit; durable; performed admirably; overall solid pen

Cons: Needs to be easier to refill; hole is too deep

Rating: 16.08

Price: \$79.99-\$99.99

Website: rvaped.com

15. Dabz

Kit includes: Battery unit, standard metal tank, metal mouthpiece, short metal tank, slip on clip with lanyard, USB charger, metal dabber, instruction card

Options: Teapot globe (sold separately)

Use with: Wax

Distinguishing characteristics: Teapot globe

Pros: Great package, carrying case; nothing too flashy; small design—decently stealthy; easy to load; solid hits; nice tools, accessories; overall solid pen; teapot globe is cool and delivers big hit

Cons: A little heavy; bad packing/filling mechanism

Rating: 17.12

Price: \$89.99 (Large kit-\$139.99)

Website: dabzpv.com



16. Dabstix

Kit includes: Vape unit, USB charger, standard tank/atomizer, globe with nail atomizer (with optional colored LED lights inside), slide-on clip with lanyard, plastic mouthpiece, metal mouthpiece, (colored glass mouthpieces also available)

Use with: Wax

Distinguishing characteristics: Colored lights inside globe

Pros: Nice attachments for stealth use and small configurations; rave pen—lanyard, colored lights, easy to fill up, hits well; overall nice pen; stylish, customizable mouthpieces; lights are cool, has some pretty cool alternative mix and match pieces

Cons: Too many lights; draws attention, not stealthy; didn't like the screen over the atomizer; not as big a hit as similar pens, took longer for the dome to fill

Rating: 16.54

Price: \$45 (Herb Pen-\$55)

Website: dabstix.com

17. Dab OTG

Kit includes: Battery unit, atomizer, two screw-in atomizers, glass dome, USB charger,

Use with: Wax

Distinguishing characteristics: Unique slim globe, four heat settings

Pros: Easy to use, refill; unique design; awesome, monster hit; you get to see how much smoke you're inhaling; four levels of heat—ability to change temperatures is useful; you can pack it with fat dabs and it has a really good pull; replaceable ceramic heating element/bowl makes it easy to fly with; very solid

Cons: Only real downside is the lack of stealth

Rating: 18.46

Price: \$60

Website: dabotg.com

18. Baby Trippy Stix

Kit includes: Battery unit, small atomizer, small metal sheath, two metal mouthpieces, USB charger, user guide

Use with: Wax

Distinguishing characteristics: N/A

Pros: Small and discreet—can be easily hidden and hit in public; easy pull, produces a solid hit; easier to pack than the standard Trippy Stix

Cons: Isn't very small for a mini—not much smaller than the standard Trippy Stix; mouthpiece is too wide; chamber could be easier to pack

Rating: 16.08

Price: \$100

Website: trippystix.com

19. Vape Ape

Kit includes: Battery unit, glass globe, atomizer with ceramic bowl, plastic mouthpiece, USB charger, small metal dabber

Use with: Wax

Distinguishing characteristics: Custom globes available

Pros: Cool design; stealthy, smallest "micro-dome"; great rips, great pen

Cons: N/A

Rating: 18.08

Price: \$79

Website: vapeapeusa.com

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Mini

We define "minis" as the flatter, shorter style pens that are characteristic of the second generation of pens. Most pens in this class are nearly indistinguishable from one another except for color and a few small details.



20



21



22



23

20. Escape Vape from Kindstack

Kit includes: two battery units, two tanks, five rubber mouthpiece tips, USB charger with wall adapter, sticker

Use with: Wax

Distinguishing characteristics: N/A

Pros: Nice and small; good stealth; delivers huge hit; reliable

Cons: Cap was a bit hard to get off—casing gets stuck; takes a minute to get going

Rating: 17.15

Price: \$79.99

Website: kindstack.com/shop/escapenvape

21. Sleek from White Rhino

Kit includes: Vape unit, small metal dabber, retractable cord charger and wall adapter

Use with: Wax

Distinguishing characteristics: N/A

Pros: Easy to hide; great hit; unique funnel-style heating mechanism

Cons: Rubber stopper in the chamber is annoying; chamber is too deep

Rating: 15.71

Price: \$59.99

Website: whiterhinoproducts.com

22. Power Pen

Kit includes: Battery unit, USB charger with wall adapter, tank, user guide

Options: Power Pen, Power Pen Package, Super Pen Package

Use with: Wax

Distinguishing characteristics: Two-part atomizer allows for interchangeable tips; 24/7 customer support; gold funnel tip

Pros: Loved the atomizer design—cool gold chamber, titanium tank; good heating element; easy to refill; nice pull—really strong hits

Cons: Wish the top would pop off easier; kind of difficult to separate the cap from the bottom to refill

Rating: 17.17

Price: Basic Kit - \$50 (see website for other pricing)

Website: power-pen.com

**BEST
MINI
PEN**

23. Cloud Pen 2.0

Kit includes: Battery unit, tank, USB charger with wall adapter, SkilletTool, rubber mouthpiece, designer carrying case, instruction card, sticker

Use with: Wax

Distinguishing characteristics: 24 unique patterns and colors (some limited-edition); gold band, 1-year warranty, titanium-grade coil in atomizer

Pros: Very stylish print; gold metal accents and band; funky packaging and carrying case; light, stealthy; easy to use and refill; good hit, works well; sturdy, reliable product

Cons: N/A

Rating: 18.5

Price: Basic kit - \$79.99, Custom patterns - \$99.99

Website: cloudpenz.com

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Mini**24. Cloud V**

Kit includes: Battery unit, retractable cord charger with wall adapter, tank (with optional window) plastic mouthpiece, user guide

Distinguishing characteristics: Lifetime warranty, three High Times Cannabis Cup awards for Best Product, 17 colors available

Pros: Easy to use; nice pull—hits super hard

Cons: Kind of hard to fill—pulling top off to refill was more difficult than other minis

Rating: 18.12

Price: \$69.99 (Platinum: \$79.99)

Website: cloudvapes.com

**25. Happy Cig by OG Distribution**

Kit includes: Two battery units, flower tank with metal sheath, concentrate tank with metal sheath, clear plastic liquid tank with plastic mouthpiece, USB charger with wall adapter, cleaning brush, five rubber mouthpiece tips, user guide

Use with: Flowers, wax, liquid

Distinguishing characteristics: Three different types of chambers including unique clear tank; one-year warranty on battery

Pros: New, different type of clear tank

Cons: Didn't pull well; not very easy to fill (annoying that the top is in two sections); really hard to pull—couldn't get a hit; sheaths are too tight against atomizer

Rating: 13.38

Price: \$79.99 (\$24.99 for extra chambers)

Website: thehappycig.com

24

25

26

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26. Micro G by Grenco Science

Kit includes: Two battery units, two tanks, two concentrate jars, charger with wall adapter, pack of "G-Tip" cotton cleaning swabs, "G" keychain dabber, five rubber mouthpiece tips, user guide

Use with: Wax

Distinguishing characteristics: one-year warranty

Pros: Lock-on button; nice small size; pretty easy to refill; great for stealth, awesome feature of leaving it on when you press the vape button; can get really good rips

Cons: N/A

Rating: 17.71

Price: \$69.95 - \$99.99

Website: grencoscience.com, gpen.com

27. Pocket Vape from Aardvark NYC

Kit includes: battery unit, tank, USB charger

Use with: Wax

Distinguishing characteristics: Black-on-black design with "NYC" on button

Pros: Very cool style; super-stealthy; easy to use and refill; tokes very smooth; the lightest version of the mini

Cons: Hole a bit deep, hard to get wax onto element, doesn't come with many accessories

Rating: 18.3

Price: \$80

Website: aardvarknyc.com



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Slim

These units are much thinner than the mini or standard vapor pens—and closer to the width of a cigarette. While more discreet, they are often harder to load.

28



29



30

**28. Bullet 2 Go by Atmos**

Kit includes: Battery unit, slim metal tank, plastic mouthpiece with spring disc, USB charger, user guide

Use with: Flowers or wax

Distinguishing characteristics: Gold metal design
Pros: Nice sleek look; compact, stealthy, slim design—cigarette-sized; hits great; unique heating mechanism
Cons: Hard to clean, chamber is too deep (works well for shatter but would be difficult to pack with gooey material); heating chamber got very hot to the touch; pull was a little difficult, took some effort; you can basically only use shatter or fine grind/dry flowers; good for 3-5 hits only

Rating: 16.33

Price: \$39.99

Website: atmosrx.com

BEST SLIM PEN

29. O.pen Vape

Kit includes: User manual, slim battery unit, USB charger (cartridges sold separately)

Use with: CO₂ oil cartridges (flavors: Sour Diesel, Chemdawg, White Widow)

Distinguishing characteristics:

Proprietary cartridges
Pros: Slim, solid design; durable; stealthy
Cons: Have to buy cartridges from a medical marijuana dispensary—must be in a legal/medical state to buy them; can fill on your own with the right tools, but difficult and messy

Rating: 9.86

Price: \$59.99

Website: o-penvape.com

30. Dube by White Rhino

Kit includes: Battery unit, slim tank, USB charger with wall adapter, cleaning brush, plastic tweezers, small metal dabber

Use with: Flowers or wax

Distinguishing characteristics: Emergency shutoff
Pros: Very nice kit—good packaging; sleek, pretty stealthy (looks like an e-cig); hits pretty well; easy for shatters or fine grind/dry flowers
Cons: Not good for wetter concentrates—sticks to plate; messy to load—can't really pack it with gooey wax; refill area is too skinny and deep; can get clogged; a bit long; gets very hot; good for 3-5 hits only

Rating: 14.71

Price: \$49.99

Website: whiterhinoproducts.com

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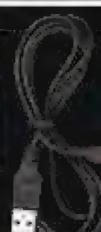
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Cigar

As the name suggests, these are closer in size to a cigar than a pen, and slightly wider than standard pens.

31



32



**MOST
VERSATILE
PEN**

31. T-Vape

Kit includes: Battery unit, tank, two rubber nipple mouthpieces, USB charger with wall adapter, rubber-tipped metal rod for packing and clearing chamber; bristle brush for cleaning chamber, user guide

Options: Short or long e-tube

Used for: Flowers

Distinguishing characteristics: Bigger than all other pens, light and heat stay on

Pros: Cool charger port under screw bottom; easy to fill

Cons: Too large and heavy; hard to hide—wouldn't fit in a pocket; hard to figure out how to hit; light stays on—confusing if it is working or not; too much waiting; takes too long to heat up, then stays really hot until you turn off

Rating: 8.96

Price: \$159.99

Website: t-vape.com

32. Trifecta by White Rhino

Kit includes: Battery unit, oil tank with plastic mouthpiece, herb tank, sheath with screen, wax tank, metal filling funnel, small metal dabber, small cleaning brush, plastic tweezers, USB charger with wall adapter, two alcohol wipes, user guide

Used with: Flowers, oil or wax

Distinguishing characteristics: Larger than other pens

Pros: Decent hit; feels durable; multiple smoking attachments—major points for versatility

Cons: Slightly fatter than standard pens—too big for stealth; a little bulky; takes a minute to unscrew

Rating: 16.21

Price: \$159.99

Website: whiterhinoproducts.com

Honors:

Best Standard: The Dabbler

Best Short: Vape Ape

Best Mini: Cloud 2.0

Best Slim: Bullet 2 Go

Best Stealth: Aardvark NYC

Best Accessory: Daborizer - solar charger

Best Feature: Source Globe - battery meter

Best Hit: Dab OTG

Most Affordable: Dabstix

Most for the Money: Micro-G

Most Stylish: Trippy Stix

Most Unique: Dabz - Teapot globe

Most Versatile: Trifecta

Best Overall: Dab OTG 

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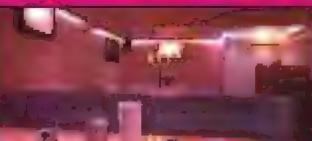
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AFTERNOONS & EVENINGS

SATURDAY

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SUNDAY

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**MEDICAL
MONDAY**



A MEDICAL INFLUENCED
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THE BIG BUDDHA &
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FROM THE
FAMOUS RIVER ROCK CO.

COME & JOIN THE FAMOUS MILA @ PRI D'AMI IN THE VIP LOUNGE...
7.10 PM - READ BACKWARDS/ UPSIDE DOWN MEANS 'OIL' DABBERS TIME!!
8.00PM - SOMA 'HEALTH MASTER EXTRAORDINAIRE' MIXING BLENDS!
9PM - Q&A 'TONY V' OF RIVER ROCKS & MTG SEEDS CBD WINNER
11.00PM - MILA'S POLINATOR DAB-A-DOO AWARDS CEREMONY



**SILENTLESS
TUESDAY**



FREE FOR JUDGES BREAKFAST
WITH THE BIG BUDDHA...
TRYING TO KEEP THIS
MORNING WAX & BHO FREE...
GIVE IT A TRY!!!

10PM - CLOSE
BIG BUDDHA IS PROUD TO HOST THE 'LEGENDS OF HASHISH'
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THIS NIGHT IS A TRUE WAX/BHO FREE EVENT...
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**BREEDERS
WEDNESDAY**



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MORNING & PRIZE GIVEAWAYS!

7PM - CLOSE
A RARE CHANCE TO CATCH UP & MEET SOME OF THE INDUSTRY'S
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FRIDAY

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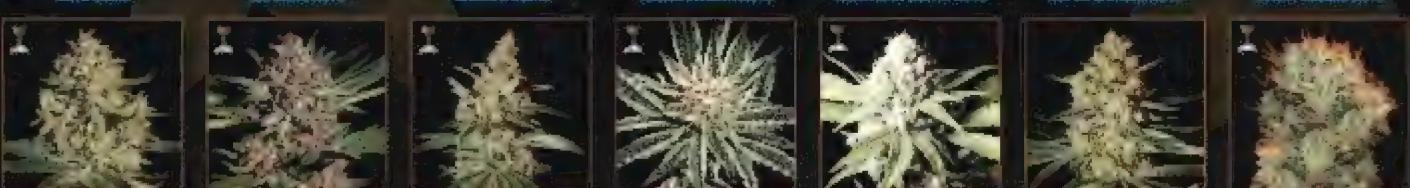


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The Buds of Autumn

All across the country, fall pot crops have been harvested and are ready for market. It's a time that comes with profits, problems and setting new priorities.

Story & Photos by Dan Skye

Rikka of Finland hauls a bundle. She works in the gardens of Loud Seeds every fall.





The Arkansas River rose and overflowed its banks. Slowly, the floodwaters began to encroach on the rural outdoor garden of Marisol Therapeutics in Pueblo, the biggest legal garden in Colorado, with over 1,200 plants just days away from harvest.

In the dead of night, Michael Stetler, Marisol's director, powered up his Bobcat and directed his crew to make the equivalent of a goal-line stand in football. His non-growing neighbors joined the fight, creating a dike-like wall to prevent the destruction of the garden, thereby saving the medicine for thousands of patients.

Over a three-day period last September, nearly 15 inches of rain fell in parts of Colorado, causing massive flooding. Roads and homes were washed away, and 14 counties applied for disaster-relief aid. A week later, over 500 people were still unaccounted for. When the rains finally stopped, the flood damage was in the billions of dollars.

After his long night fighting back the Arkansas River, Stetler is relaxing—but only momentarily. Now that the skies have cleared, happier tasks are at hand, such as harvesting.

"We're cutting down our first plant today. That was close," Stetler says with

Michael Stetler
begins harvest
after escaping ris-
ing floodwaters.



a sigh of relief. "We depend heavily on these plants. We've got a big staff at our dispensary and in the garden. A lot of people depend on the revenue in order to live. And we need the money to expand."

Stetler expects to purchase three greenhouses in order to tend his plants year-round. The past couple of years have strained Marisol's finances. Its original gardens and greenhouse were forced to move after zoning laws prohibited their

location. Now, Marisol's cannabis production is finally back to full speed.

Marisol is a vertically integrated operation: It cultivates and processes its own medicine—all of which is grown outdoors—sells that medicine in its own dispensary, and will soon market its own line of edibles. Marisol's products are known statewide, and the company is firmly entrenched in Colorado's new marijuana economy.

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A woman with long dark hair and a tattoo on her arm is shown using a Vape Oregon device. The device is a clear glass pen with a blue body and a green "Vape QR" label. The background is dark with a blue glow.



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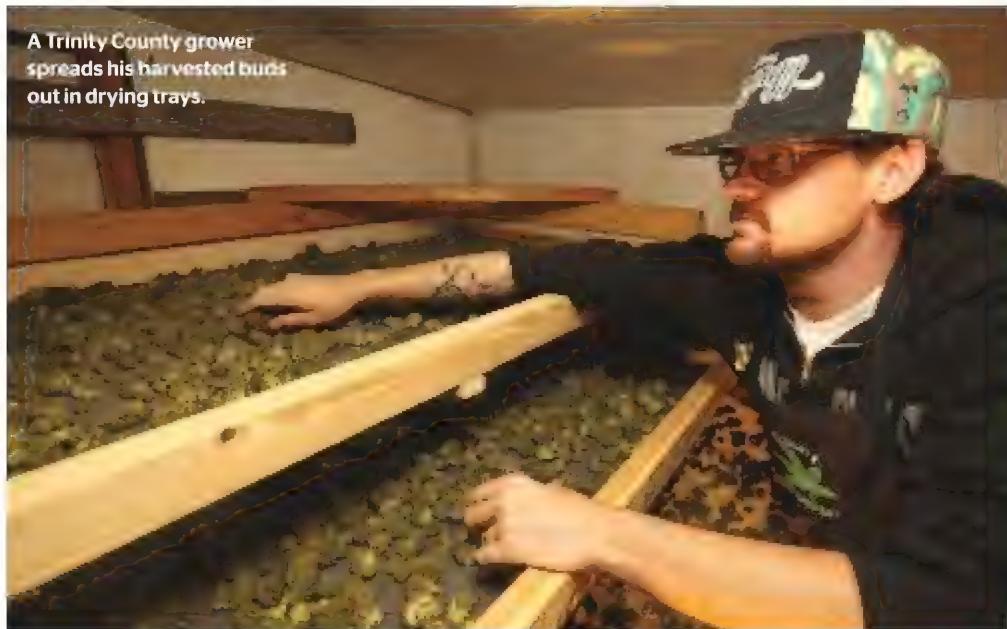
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A Cannastick device is shown, which is a black and silver vaporizer pen. A small tag attached to the pen says "15% off COUPON CODE 'HIGH TIMES' at checkout". The Cannastick logo, featuring a stylized green leaf, is prominently displayed.



**“What kind of backwards economics is this?
Because I can produce the exact same product
cheaper, I should receive less for it?”**



A thousand miles away, in the renowned pot-growing empire known as the Emerald Triangle (which comprises Humboldt, Trinity and Mendocino counties), growers are gearing up for outdoor harvests as well. While the high altitudes of Colorado force most growers inside, Northern California’s gardens are virtually all outdoors. With its mild climate and a legacy of producing the nation’s best cannabis, the Emerald Triangle has become the mecca for outdoor pot: Ripening gardens are everywhere this time of year—and they are huge. Growers on stepladders tend to their 14-footers, with expectations of harvesting six to nine pounds per plant. Unfortunately, the market for their product is somewhat askew. Consider the experience of one grower.

“I went to one prominent Bay Area dispensary and was offered a price of \$1,800 a pound,” he says. “Then I discovered they were buying indoor pounds for \$3,800. I asked why. The dispensary’s product director answered, ‘The cost for indoor growers is \$1,200 to \$1,400 more per pound than outdoor. If they don’t get it, they can’t make it.’

“What kind of backwards economics is this?” the grower asks rhetorically. “Because I can produce the exact same product cheaper, I should receive less for it?”

What’s even more galling is that California dispensaries rarely sell outdoor cannabis at a proportional discount; the retail costs for eighths, both indoor and outdoor, are remarkably similar. “It makes me wonder,” the grower says: “Are outdoor growers indirectly subsidizing the indoor industry?”

It’s an interesting question. Indoor pot is cultivated, harvested and processed in cycles of three to four months. During flowering, the plants get 12 hours of darkness and 12 hours of light generated by grow lamps, to imitate the natural duration and spectrum of sunlight. Of course, indoor growers don’t have to deal with unfavorable weather conditions, but their carbon footprint is immense. Furthermore, the artificial environment is much more vulnerable to certain types of pests, because the natural predators that control their numbers are absent. So it’s hardly a surprise that outdoor growers insist that sun-grown plants possess certain flavor characteristics derived from their natural environment. And lab testing has certainly shown that their potency is comparable to indoor bud.

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The director of Camp Cool Farms in northern Mendocino County doesn't disagree, but he places the blame on dispensaries for fostering the implication that outdoor weed is inferior. "They'll say that outdoor bud has dirt or mold or mildew or fungus or animal hair," he explains. "Yes, those are contaminants—but indoor pot is treated with fungicides and insecticides to ward off pests. Do consumers prefer that? My feeling is that consumers don't care whether their product is grown indoors or outdoors. But they do care whether it's healthy, safe and organic. And if they care about that, then they usually care about the carbon footprint required to produce it."

However, as a longtime commercial grower, he concedes that indoor growers do possess a market advantage. "There are commercial reasons for these price gaps," he says. "When outdoor growers harvest, they come to dispensaries with pounds of pot—sometimes 50 to 80 pounds at a time. Dispensaries don't want that much; they can't afford it, and they have no place to store it. Indoor growers have the advantage of being able to promise on-time delivery; they can bring

"What newcomers and outsiders don't understand is that the industry is here to stay. It's evolving all the time, and it's our duty to shepherd it."



in new, different products every week, and dispensaries won't get stuck with a surplus. Also, dispensaries can pre-order from their regular suppliers and make sure they get the hot new strain."

Regardless of these price gaps, outdoor pot continues to drive the economies of rural Northern Cali. Some logging remains here—some cattle raising, too—but cannabis is the backbone of these communities. In years past, politicians bemoaned the prevalence of the pot

industry, but no more. The revenue generated from cannabis has funded school programs, volunteer fire departments, environmental projects, arts programs and much else. Furthermore, the growers have laid the foundation for ancillary businesses—those that support and supply the cultivation industry, creating new jobs in these communities.

Of course, not everyone sees things that way. Those who seek to demonize the cannabis industry are always trying to find an audience. A couple of years ago, plans were underway in Ukiah, Mendocino's county seat, to build a new mall. Marijuana enforcement had been made a "lowest law-enforcement priority" for the county, but a coalition of business leaders was taking issue because local young people weren't clamoring for the new minimum-wage jobs that the mall would offer. Instead, they were taking jobs as trimmers in the "illegal" pot industry.

"That was weird," says the Camp Cool Farms director. "They were insisting that young people take menial dead-end jobs rather than engage in skilled labor that pays \$20 an hour. What newcomers and outsiders don't understand is that the industry is here to stay. It's evolving all the time, and it's our duty to shepherd it."

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In Sonoma County to the south, James Loud is visiting one of the gardens in the Loud Seeds network. Loud Seeds, one of the newest, most successful seed companies, has won a host of awards for its strains—including the top prize for best hybrid (Loud Scout, a Girl Scout Cookies x Platinum OG Kush) at the 2012 Cannabis Cup. James has just moved Loud Seeds to Spain and released 22 different strains. The business model for Loud Seeds entails contracting with top growers and breeders to produce the company's products.

This particular garden requires a number of workers—especially overnight security, as harvest time increases the threat of thievery. Also, with illegal growers located a little too uncomfortably nearby, tending gardens on sections of private land without permission, tensions are already high. In fact, locals took matters into their own hands when law enforcement declined to raid one

They chopped down the plants and left them in a pile.

In rugged Trinity County, a region of steep mountains and abundant, sometimes dangerous wildlife, B.E. Smith and members of his family have just begun cutting down plants. B.E. has been growing for 34 years, despite being interrupted for a little over two seasons (27 months) after he was jailed in 1999 for growing 87 plants. But jail didn't stop him; B.E. was back growing the first spring following his release.

He's a simple, honest man. For B.E., a decorated Vietnam vet, growing marijuana is a demonstration of freedom. "In order to be a free man, you gotta have a choice; if you don't, you aren't free. Democracy is the most vile form of government ever invented. Why? Because 50 percent plus one means they can tell you what to do. Nobody's telling me to do," B.E. says firmly.

Growing cannabis in tiny Denny, CA,

"I've watched politicians try to demonize cannabis for years. They've put people in jail, tried to tell America that cannabis will undermine morals, done everything they could to stop 'em. But guess what? Americans didn't listen."

such grow that was polluting creeks and creating trash dumps:

deep in the mountains of Trinity County, suits him perfectly. B.E. grows his own strains—Tragic (Magic x Arcata Trainwreck) and Purple x Tragic—and that's all. He calls himself a "private man," but admits to feeling a responsibility to inform his fellow Americans that they've lost sight of freedom's true meaning. He's in the process of writing a book and wants to lecture. He's highly critical of both the government and its citizens.

"I've watched politicians try to demonize cannabis for years," B.E. says. "They've put people in jail, tried to tell America that cannabis will undermine morals, done everything they could to stop 'em.

"But guess what?" he adds. "Americans didn't listen. Cannabis is here to stay. The industry is getting stronger, and more people are convinced that it's a good thing. That's the America that I want to see—questioning the government, making its own decisions. If Americans can see the truth with cannabis, maybe we can stop the government from trying to convince us that all these wars are necessary."

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Run for the Roses

Buds and Roses is following a straight and narrow path to ascendance in the cannabis industry.

Story by Samantha Nicholas. Photos by Dan Skye



America's history is checkered with (sometimes violent) episodes of industrial workers fighting for better wages and working conditions. The 1912 textile strike in Lawrence, MA, which many historians call the "Bread and Roses strike," saw 20,000 workers organize along ethnic lines to protest discrimination and unfair pay cuts. The workers found inspiration in the 1911 poem by James Oppenheim, who wrote: "Our lives shall not be sweated from birth until life closes; / Hearts starve as well as bodies; give us bread, but give us roses!" "Bread" represented a living wage; "roses" referred to the workers' desire for simple dignity.

Inset, from left: Tyler Wadleigh, Aaron Justis and Kyle Kushman make up the Buds and Roses team.





Coining a name from that famous phrase for your medical marijuana dispensary—Buds and Roses—isn't just an exercise in cleverness. There *are* parallels.

All of us want buds in the literal sense, but we also demand dignity as a community. In Los Angeles, the cannabis industry has been at the mercy of arbitrary, sometimes whimsical oversight by local politicians ever since California's historic passage of Proposition 215, which legalized medical marijuana. At one point, there were over 1,200 dispensaries in the city. That was reduced to about 700. Then came a City Council attempt to ban dispensaries altogether. Now, following a May ballot measure, only 135 will be permitted to stay in business. Some 100,000 LA-area patients will be looking for buds; just about everyone we know who likes pot is still looking for dignity.

In 2006, Buds and Roses was the 17th dispensary to be registered with the city of Los Angeles. Until 2010, it had been a struggling business with few customers.

Enter Aaron Justis. He'd owned a retail store for cell phones and satellite-TV installation; he'd also been a real-estate agent and owned several properties. He was an entrepreneur, but he was also an activist who, inspired by a meeting with

Some 100,000 LA-area patients will be looking for buds; just about everyone we know who likes pot is still looking for dignity.

the late Jack Herer, started up his own hemp-clothing company, J-Wear, and won the award for Best New Hemp Product at the 1999 Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam. While there, Aaron met Kyle Kushman, the cultivation editor of *High Times* at the time, who would turn out to be a future friend in college.

The fact is, Aaron had always been involved in the cannabis industry in his home state of Illinois—and as California's industry gained momentum, so did his eagerness to be a part of it. By 2007, he was back on the West Coast scoping out the Cali scene, accompanied by his friend Tyler Wadleigh, a fellow grower from Illinois who'd been hanging with Aaron ever since they met at a skate park at the tender age of 11.

The pair visited Oaksterdam University and attended that year's NORML conference in California, where Kyle was a speaker. "We reunited right there,"

Aaron says. "Within 24 hours, we were at his house in Mendocino County checking out his garden."

Tyler recalls being blown away by what greeted his eyes at Kushman's place: "The quality of his crop was something I'd never seen. He had a mind-set about his plants that both Aaron and I had never encountered."

Kyle served as *HT*'s cultivation editor for five years, but growing pot—as opposed to writing about it—turned out to be his true calling. After leaving the magazine, he became firmly entrenched in Cali's grow scene, where his fascination with Veganics and producing safe, 100 percent toxin-free pot became a ruling passion.

"Veganics is short for 'vegan organic,'" Kyle explains. "It's as old as organics is. It's nothing new; certainly it's nothing I created. With Veganics, you use the best of organics, but you remove all of the animal products. Moving toward legalization, I'm thinking of the day when there are tens of thousands of growers who may live in urban high-rises. Do you want to have fertilizers like guano—bat poop—in your home with your children and pets? Veganics is so much better for container gardening because, with organics, by the

HIGH TIMES

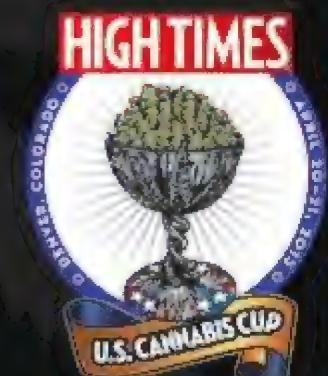
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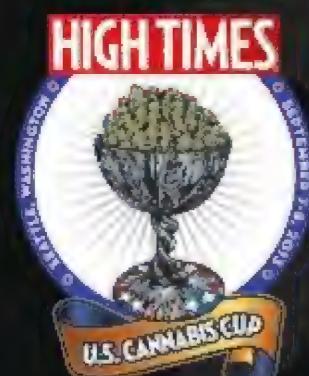


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end of the cycle, you've got a breakdown: Once the nutrition is leached away, you're left with poo, you're left with garbage, you're left with residue that never fully breaks down. The only thing left after you metabolize the nutrition using Veganics is complex carbohydrates."

Aaron says that when he took over as Buds and Roses' president in 2010, "We aimed to be the most professional example of a dispensary we could. We followed all of the rules, got involved with local activism and the local neighborhood councils, and fought to get regulations in LA that would work. Once we got the ball rolling, Tyler and I moved our families out here permanently."

Kushman came on board too, moving down from Mendo and completing the Kushman Genetics/Buds and Roses team.

"The marketplace in LA has been very unstable, due to the lack of regulation and random law enforcement, so we haven't wanted to grow *too* big," Aaron says. "We grew the business slow, following the most professional and best business practices we could. We sought out the best legal advice, the best accountants, the best products—and we barely advertised. We followed many of the same procedures as

"Quality is easier to control with a small staff, comprised of people you trust who are like-minded and believe in the future of the plant."

the best dispensaries in Northern California. I toured them, consulted with them, and learned how to run a dispensary properly. We wanted to show that dispensaries *can* be involved in the community and make it a better place."

Their grow op has remained small and carefully controlled as well. Tyler, who now serves as cultivation director, says: "It's all about building a foundation. Quality is easier to control with a small staff, comprised of people you trust who are like-minded and believe in the future of the plant. We're like a micro-brewery: Our goal is to someday produce on a larger scale—but we want to maintain quality, too. So we're investigating all of the new technology that will allow that to happen. You've got to find the balance between remaining hands-on and in touch with your plants and achieving maximum production."

To be sure, the consensus regarding the quality of their buds continues to deepen. At the last four High Times Cannabis Cups held in the States, Buds and Roses walked away with multiple awards, including the top prizes at this year's U.S. Cannabis Cups in Denver and Seattle for Veganic Girl Scout Cookies and Veganic Strawberry Cough.

Much of the credit can be given to the combination of best practices and the shared vision of quality. Kyle founded Kushman Genetics and has been perfecting strains for the past 20 years. His seed company, which also includes championship strains like Strawberry Cough, Cherry Lopez, Alpha Dawg and Silverback Grape Ape, is now a part of the fledgling Buds and Roses empire. Additionally, Kushman and his team just released Vega-matrix this past October, a new Veganic nutrient that will help growers produce smoother, cleaner crops. They've also teamed up with vendors like The Venice Cooking Company to provide the best edibles. "We seek out the best products in the industry," Aaron says. "The regulations in LA don't allow us to have our own kitchen, so we just partner up with the best edible companies out there."

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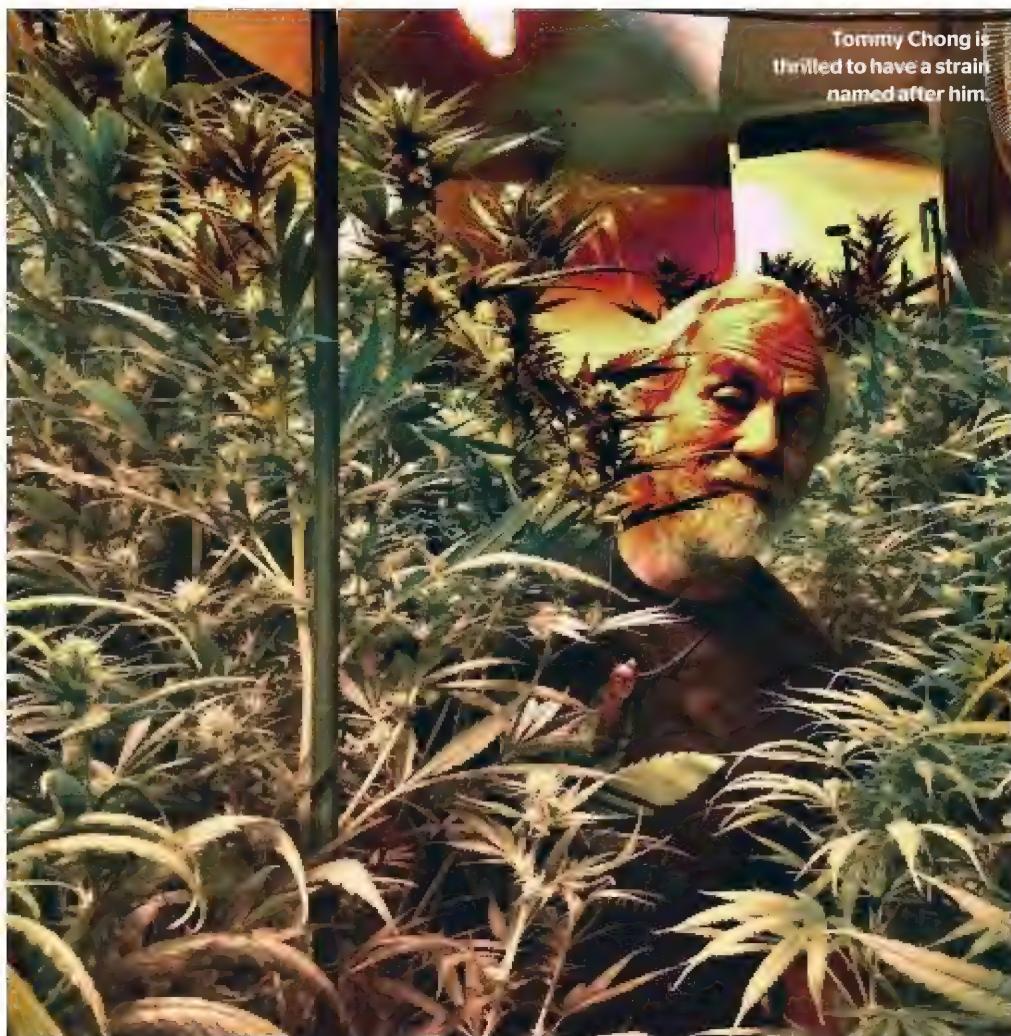
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Perhaps the most intriguing development is a Kushman Genetics partnership with stoner-comedy legend Tommy Chong. "We started a nice little rooftop garden for Tommy," Kyle says. "We've created a strain for Chong, a separate strain for Cheech and then a third, actual Cheech & Chong strain. It's very exciting to be working with these guys—American icons."

The reach of Aaron Justis and his partners now extends beyond this country's shores. Last February, Czech President Václav Klaus signed legislation that now makes it legal in the Czech Republic for citizens to use marijuana medicinally. It can be imported or grown locally by registered firms who have been licensed by the government. Buds and Roses have been contracted by one of these firms seeking to duplicate their success model.

"We're trying to capitalize on our standing in the community," Aaron notes. "We love the medical cannabis industry. I think one of the best things we can do, for patients and for the community, is to operate on the front lines as a professional, well-run organization that pays taxes and works with the community." *

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From Kyle Kushman

On grow ops: "There's a place for every application somewhere. I have yet to grow in a 100-light warehouse. I can't say for sure whether the finished-product ratio will play out with my process in a commercial atmosphere, but I'm looking forward to the chance to try it. But for me, at this point in time, the best cannabis is without question hand-watered."

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Yaba, The Mad

As an economic boom sweeps over Asia, so does a new drug epidemic. *Yaba*, a form of methamphetamine mixed with caffeine and flavoring, is fast becoming the go-to drug on the continent and the preferred high for those who want to work hard and party harder.

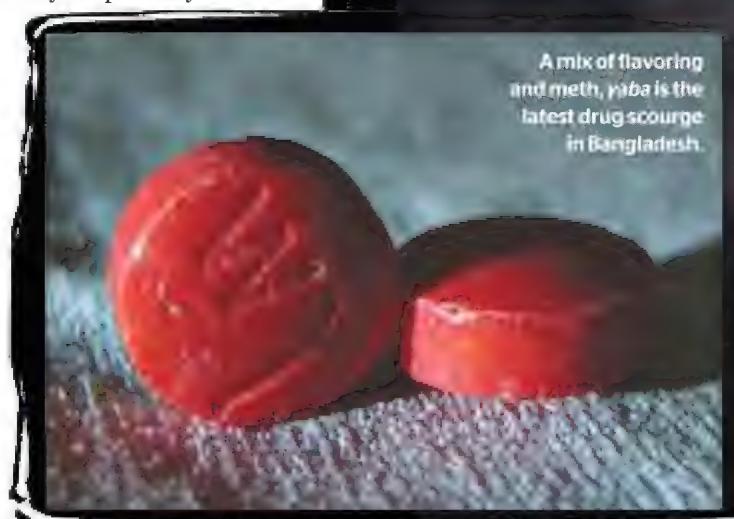
By Joseph Allchin

When it comes to *yaba*, Tarique started young. Though he's only 24, it's been a long road, visible in his pallid complexion and scrawny frame. It all began at his brother's wedding: Amid the glitz and uproar of a Bangladeshi celebration, Tarique, then just 14, got his first taste of the vanilla-scented fumes of *yaba*, a small pink pill that is rapidly sweeping Asia, its rise powered not just by its saccharine aroma, but also by its primary active ingredient—methamphetamine.

Bangladesh is the latest country to fall for this neatly packaged dose of stimulants that includes caffeine, vanilla flavorings and bulking agents along with the meth. It's usually smoked off tin-foil, as the pill melts and the user inhales plumes of vanilla-scented vapor. A densely populated nation of some 150 million people, Bangladesh is now on the front lines of the *yaba* epidemic, with *Jane's Intelligence Review*, the respected journal on international security, asserting that the trafficking organization in nearby Burma "is deliberately providing a promotional rate for exports to Bangladesh."

Burma (also known as Myanmar), by far the largest producer of *yaba*, is a country whose borderlands are often beyond the reach of the government, which only recently became a nominally civilian entity after almost 50 years of military rule. These hinterlands are home to rebel outfits like the United Wa State Army (UWSA)—an armed ethnic insurgent group that is believed to have tens of thousands of members—which have found the lucrative *yaba* trade to be their new calling, often in connivance with a corrupt central government. *Jane's* notes that "unconfirmed media reports of uniformed UWSA personnel seen in the [Burmese] border town of Maungdaw in 2010 raise the possibility of a UWSA trading office having been set up there."

According to Bertil Lintner, a veteran journalist and author of *Merchants of Madness*, the seminal work on the trade: "The United Wa State Army is by far the main player and controls large chunks of territory along the Chinese frontier [with Burma] in the northeast, and a smaller base area adjacent to Thailand in the south. Inside this area, *yaba* producers can set up labs and pay 'taxes' to the UWSA."



More Profitable Than Heroin

For generations, heroin was the most profitable drug produced in the border area between Burma, Thailand and Laos known as the Golden Triangle, with the profits often being used to fund various insurgencies. Professor Alfred McCoy detailed this trade in his book *The Politics of Heroin in South East Asia*, in which he alleges that the anticommunist Chinese nationalists known as the Kuomintang (KMT), in exile in northern Burma, produced and sold heroin with the help of the CIA to fund their operations. Indeed, he quotes one KMT commander as saying: "We have to continue to fight the evil of Communism, and to fight you must have an army, and an army must have guns, and to buy guns you must have money. In these mountains, the only money is opium."

Over the course of several decades, however, a complex series of political events led to the rise of the multibillion-dollar *yaba* industry, which has largely supplanted the heroin trade. For one thing, in 1989, the Communist Party of Burma imploded in a coup. Chinese funding for the country dried up and a new entity, the UWSA, was born. After years of insurgency, the rebel group signed a peace deal with the Burmese military government that



Yaba—the Satanic dragon

had “business opportunities implicit in the agreement,” according to *Jane’s Intelligence Review*, which also states that “the leading pioneer of the shift into methamphetamine was Wei Xuegang, a senior UWSA commander.”

Meanwhile, in Thailand in the late 1980s, a variant of methamphetamine known as *yama* (horse drug) started to gain popularity, primarily among truck drivers who needed to stay up all night. *Yama*’s surge in popularity came about, ironically, after the Thai government banned the sale of conventional amphetamines in 1988. Soon Thai students also began using *yama*, which was produced and sold illegally. In 1996, as the Thai police started to encounter its effects on young users, they coined a new name for it—*yaba* (madness drug).

With the market in Thailand opening up, producers like Wei Xuegang sensed

an opportunity to shift from heroin, which had long been a profitable export, to *yaba* because, as *Jane’s* notes, it was a potent stimulant, “far better suited to markets in a region embarking on rapid economic growth.” It was also easier to produce than heroin and less reliant on erratic harvests.

Emerging Markets

Yaba grew slowly in the 1990s, with the exports largely confined to Thailand. By the turn of the millennium, Thailand’s version of the DEA, the Office of Narcotics Control Board, estimated that one billion of these small pink pills were being smuggled across the border annually.

This situation could hardly escape the attention of Thai politicians. In 2003, Thailand’s prime minister, Thaksin Shinawatra, declared war on the *yaba* trade. In a single year, Thai police killed 2,500

alleged users and dealers of the drug, all without trial. It soon became clear to *yaba* producers that they needed to open new markets.

That’s when *yaba* started to appear in Bangladesh. Tarique says his habit began in 2003, after he tried it at his brother’s wedding. “I used to take it to hang out with my friends and roam around, just to have fun—but after a while it changed me; it changed my mentality. After having it, I didn’t feel like talking to anyone. I was all alone. I was freaking out because of a little pin-drop of sound ... I mean *paranoia*,” he adds.

Tarique is seated in the CREA rehab center in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. He says his honeymoon with *yaba* lasted four years—and then things became increasingly desperate. “I took 300,000 taka [\$3,750] that was meant for my exam registration and spent that on *yaba*, and then I ran away from home. That’s when my parents knew I was into *yaba*,” he says. “I spent the money in seven days—it’s a lot of money.”

He also started dealing to fund his habit. “Once people become addicted, they have to,” he says. “The bigger dealers will give you *yaba* pills for free.” Tarique would then sell them to his friends. “My dealer was the biggest dealer in Dhaka—he still is. He takes them from Teknaf, near Burma, and then he brings it over here. He was not from a wealthy family; he doesn’t take drugs. He does it because of money—to survive.” The dealer would give Tarique around 100 pills at 10 a.m.; by 5 p.m., he would be sold out.

Tarun Kanti Gayen, the director of the CREA rehab center where Tarique is being treated, says: “Before 2011, we were receiving *yaba* clients, but the numbers were very low—80 percent of our clients were heroin users Since 2011, the numbers started rising, and right now around 60 to 70 percent are *yaba* users.”

According to Shafiq Ur Rahman, the director general of police in Chittagong, Bangladesh’s second-largest city, which is close to the Burmese border, they first noticed a growth in smuggling five years ago. Since then, interdiction rates suggest an incredible growth in the *yaba* trade. In 2008, the Bangladeshi authorities seized some 36,000 pills. One year later, that number had risen to 130,000. By 2012, the exponential growth in the drug’s popularity led to seizures of nearly two million pills in a single year. Authorities in Thailand estimate that these seizures represent only 10 percent of what is actually being smuggled, since

law enforcement in Bangladesh has far fewer resources than in Thailand.

Aiding the trade is rampant corruption. Tarique alleges police connivance: "Even the police are dealers over there [in his neighborhood]. You won't believe me, but it's true." He also claims that his dealer set him up. Tarique was scheduled to receive a delivery of 700 pills, but then the cops suddenly showed up, confiscated the drugs, released his dealer and put Tarique in prison.

"I cried for days—hell is better than jail," Tarique says. In Bangladesh, ordinary criminals are mixed with the lifers, who would "forcefully try and make love," as well as beat up newcomers. The jail was also awash in drugs. He got out after three weeks, but only because his family was able to bribe a judge.

"A Well-Organized Export Drive"

Yaba is cheap to make, which means it's especially attractive as a source of profits. One pill costs around nine cents to produce in a lab in northern Burma. By the time the pills reach the town of Maungdaw on the Burma-Bangladesh border, they fetch around 25 cents apiece. Once the shipment crosses the border, the pills have been marked up to 60 cents

"I cried for days—hell is better than jail," Tarique says. In Bangladesh, ordinary criminals are mixed with the lifers, who would 'forcefully try and make love.'

each; then the price virtually doubles at every step as the pills move closer to the Bangladeshi capital. Once in Dhaka, a good pill will cost around \$6.25 on the street, with lower-quality pills going for around \$3.

"Nowadays, everybody is selling *yaba*—you can find it across the street" from the rehab center, Tarique says. "Four to five years back, it was rare, but now it's dangerous ... you can find *yaba* everywhere." He adds that you can even have the pills delivered to your house, often by poor young children enlisted as couriers.

Despite the booming trade, CREA director Tarun argues that "the demand is not created by the users. Yes, it is *maintained* by the users," he adds, "but in the initiation phase, the demand is created by the peddlers or dealers—so it's

all about the availability of the drug." His argument is corroborated by the research conducted by Jane's, which notes: "The striking surge since 2009 and the distance of the Bangladesh border from production centers in Shan State [in northeast Burma] appear to reflect a well-organized export drive rather than a more gradual growth in the user-base."

Bangladesh is indeed a fertile market. The country has a population of over 150 million, almost three times that of Thailand. While the majority of people are still very poor, the country's economy, like many in Asia, is growing fast, at around 5 to 6 percent every year. This has meant a burgeoning middle class. And since Bangladesh is also a Muslim-majority nation, alcohol is banned and hard to come by, which means that students or affluent young people are short on ideas for fun on a Friday night (or Tuesday daytime for some).

The country's drug culture, meanwhile, is also evolving. Up until the 1980s, few narcotics were consumed in Bangladesh except for marijuana. This was a traditional, even spiritual practice that saw government-registered dispensaries selling pot over the counter. Rural communities still grow their own bush weed and

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relieve a hard day in the fields with a toke. However, an official ban on marijuana in the 1980s soon saw heroin flooding the market.

"Ganja was restricted from the 1980s under the military rule of Ershad," says Tarun, referring to Hussain Muhammad Ershad, the Bangladeshi autocrat who ruled from 1983 to 1990. "After that, we saw a rise in the use of hard drugs—so maybe there *is* a correlation."

As a result of the ganja ban, Bangladeshis replaced marijuana with heroin and, latterly, *yaba*. Many suspect that Ershad's business associates were involved in the heroin trade. Moreover, Ershad was staunchly pro-American during the Cold War. Bearing in mind that heroin in Bangladesh has always been of Afghan origin, it certainly raises the question why the sudden influx occurred at precisely the time that pro-American forces in Afghanistan were producing heroin to fund the anti-Soviet insurgency.

Heroin is still very cheap and prevalent in Bangladesh. Tarun estimates that a small packet or hit retails for around 60 cents—around 10 times less than the cost of a good *yaba* pill, despite the fact that *yaba* is easier to produce. But heroin is considered "a low-class drug;

As a result of the ganja ban, Bangladeshis replaced marijuana with heroin and, latterly, *yaba*.

it's not a drug of the gentleman," Tarun explains. "*Yaba* is white-collar, so those who take *yaba* are higher-class, because it's expensive."

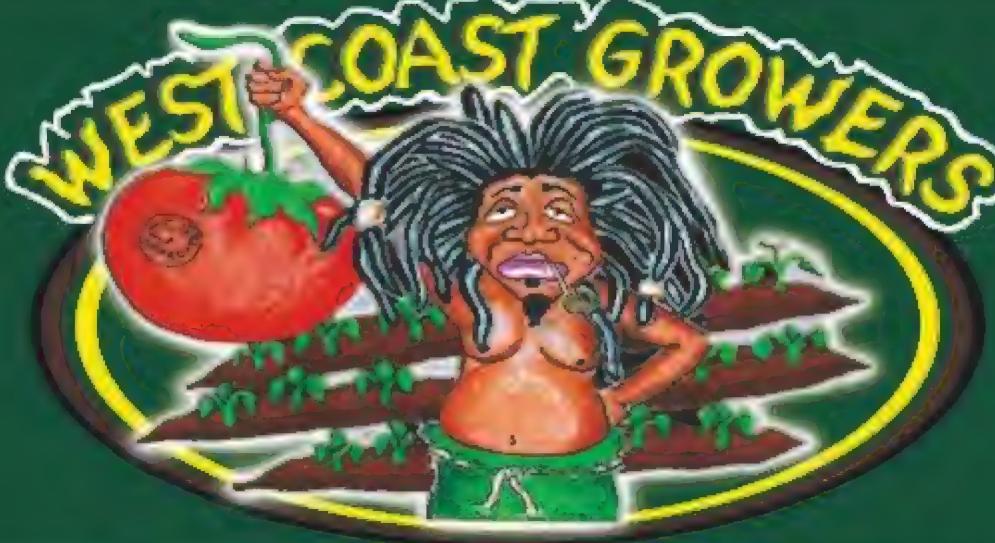
The predominance of *yaba* is also tied to the ascent of modern Asia. Much like the growth of cocaine use in the West in the 1980s, *yaba* fits with the accelerated times. According to Tarun, business executives and directors will take a break and bust out some pink pills and tinfoil for a quick mid-afternoon meth binge and then "work beyond their schedule."

While the Bangladeshi government is "not very sensitive" to the issue, Tarun says, that is beginning to change. In August, the country witnessed perhaps its most sensational crime involving the drug. A teenager named Oishee had

become accustomed to going out and doing *yaba* with her friends. Her policeman father became aware that something was up, so he grounded her. So frustrated was Oishee with her punishment that she drugged both her parents—and once they were sound asleep, she stabbed them to death.

Tarun says that he has seen a marked increase in psychiatric problems in the people at his rehab center since the start of the *yaba* boom, with as many as 64 percent of *yaba* users being afflicted, compared to only 10 percent of heroin users.

It is clear from across the region, then, that not only have governments failed to stem the flow of *yaba*, but that they have often also prepared the ground by criminalizing more benign substances. And in a pattern familiar from our own War on Drugs, while interdiction rates have reached record highs, the growth of *yaba*'s popularity shows no signs of slowing. Tarique cites people he knows who "are frequently going to Burma and coming back to Bangladesh—from them we know the Burmese authorities are not taking the appropriate steps." Likewise for the authorities in his own nation: "For some unknown reason, they are not taking the appropriate action." *



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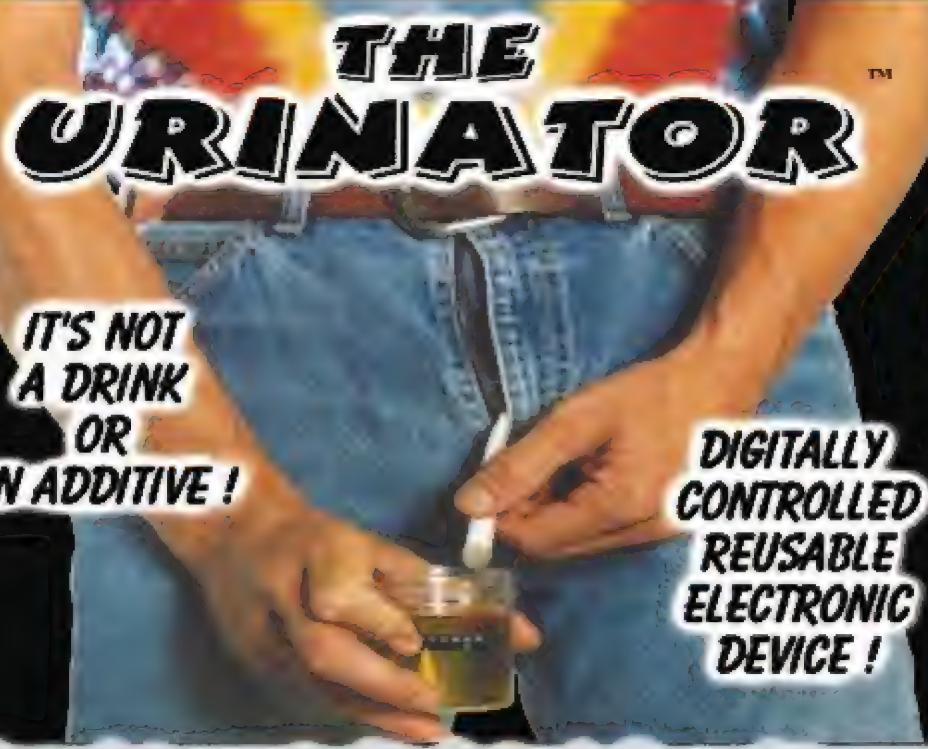
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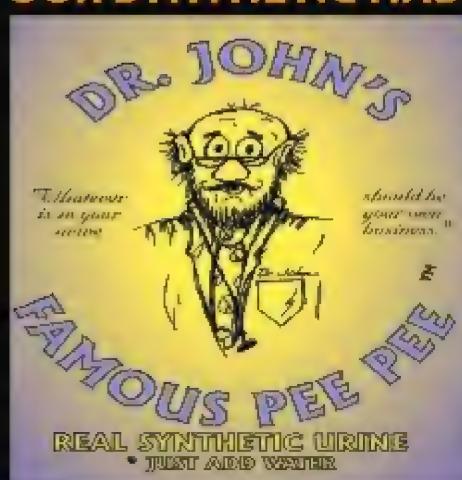
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The truth has set
Dr. Gupta free—
to talk about
marijuana.



BY DAVID BIENENSTOCK

DR. SANJAY GUPTA

THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW

DR. SANJAY GUPTA, A LEADING NEUROSURGEON AND CNN'S CHIEF MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT, MADE A HUGE ERROR WHEN IT CAME TO ASSESSING THE THERAPEUTIC POTENTIAL OF MARIJUANA: HE DECIDED TO TRUST THE GOVERNMENT.

"I MISTAKENLY BELIEVED THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY LISTED MARIJUANA AS A SCHEDULE 1 SUBSTANCE BECAUSE OF SOUND SCIENTIFIC PROOF," HE WROTE IN "WHY I CHANGED MY MIND ON WEED," HIS RECENT EDITORIAL ON CNN.COM. "SURELY," HE ADDED, "THEY MUST HAVE QUALITY REASONING AS TO WHY MARIJUANA IS IN THE CATEGORY OF THE MOST DANGEROUS DRUGS THAT HAVE 'NO ACCEPTED MEDICINAL USE AND A HIGH POTENTIAL FOR ABUSE.' [BUT] THEY DIDN'T HAVE THE SCIENCE TO SUPPORT THAT CLAIM, AND I NOW KNOW THAT WHEN IT COMES TO MARIJUANA NEITHER OF THOSE THINGS ARE TRUE."

IN PARTICULAR, GUPTA LOOKS BACK WITH CHAGRIN ON AN OP-ED HE WROTE FOR *TIME* MAGAZINE IN 2009 CALLED "WHY I WOULD VOTE NO ON POT," IN WHICH HE EXPRESSED SHEER AMAZEMENT THAT "AFTER ALL THESE YEARS—AND ALL THE WARS ON DRUGS AND ALL THE PUBLIC-SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS—NEARLY 15 MILLION AMERICANS STILL USE MARIJUANA AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH." THE REMAINDER OF HIS THINLY SOURCED ARGUMENT BASICALLY TOED THE GOVERNMENT LINE THAT MARIJUANA IN ITS NATURAL FORM IS SOMEHOW TOO DANGEROUS FOR EVEN TERMINALLY ILL CANCER PATIENTS TO USE.

SO IMAGINE THE IMPACT AROUND THE WORLD WHEN A PHYSICIAN THAT MILLIONS OF PEOPLE TURN TO FOR MEDICAL ADVICE SUDDENLY DECIDED NOT ONLY TO CORRECT THE RECORD, BUT ALSO TO OFFER A HEARTFELT APOLOGY FOR HIS PART IN PERPETUATING WHAT HE CALLED A TERRIBLE AND SYSTEMATIC ATTEMPT TO MISLEAD THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE TRUE SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE SHOWING MARIJUANA TO BE A SAFE, EFFECTIVE MEDICINE.

IN AN HOUR-LONG DOCUMENTARY THAT WAS HEAVILY PROMOTED BEFORE AIRING ON CNN, GUPTA DID JUST THAT, TRAVELING THE WORLD TO MAKE HIS CASE, INCLUDING CONDUCTING INTERVIEWS WITH PATIENTS, RESEARCHERS, DOCTORS AND LEADERS IN THE MEDICAL MARIJUANA INDUSTRY. SPEAKING WITH *HIGH TIMES* BY TELEPHONE SHORTLY BEFORE THE SHOW AIRED, HE SOUNDED RELIEVED TO TALK WITH SOMEONE HE DIDN'T HAVE TO CONVINCE REGARDING THE BENEFITS THAT EVEN CHRONICALLY ILL CHILDREN COULD RECEIVE FROM BEING ADMINISTERED HIGHLY CONCENTRATED MARIJUANA UNDER A QUALIFIED PHYSICIAN'S GUIDANCE.

I STARTED OUR DIALOGUE BY THANKING DR. GUPTA FOR HIS REPORTING, AND ESPECIALLY THE APOLOGY—which many of us have been waiting on for a long, long time from someone in his position.

What was the tipping point for you—the moment when you decided to come forward, admit that you'd been wrong, and start re-examining the issue of medical marijuana from a whole new perspective?

Well, I think it was a couple of things. The first one was looking through a lot of academic papers on the subject, using the same medical-journal search engines that you have access to, and realizing just how many studies of medical marijuana were actually designed to try to find harms—something like 90 percent of them, while only about 6 percent, according to my calculations, were looking for any benefits. And so I began to wonder if that wasn't creating a very distorted picture.

As a researcher and a reporter, I decided to dig a little deeper. I started to make phone calls to people in labs all over the world to look at the bigger picture.

That came first, but the biggest factor was spending significant amounts of time with patients who use cannabis: meeting them, looking at their medical records, talking with their physicians and reviewing their treatment courses, including all the other options they had exhausted before trying medical marijuana. I saw with my own eyes the objective impact of cannabis on their

particular conditions. These weren't anecdotal stories; these were a collection of individuals who I eventually realized were emblematic of something much larger.

Was there a particular case that had an emotional impact on you, in addition to a scientific one?

Charlotte Figi, who was featured in my *Weed* documentary—she has Dravet's Syndrome, a very intractable form of epilepsy. I heard about her story before I met her and even talked with her physicians, which gave me some idea of her overall picture. And her condition overlaps with my main area of interest and expertise in neurosurgery. So when I finally met this 5-year-old girl, who I knew had been on seven different anti-epileptics and was still having 300 seizures a week, and saw that now she uses medical marijuana and only has two seizures a month—that made an indelible impact.

To think that she could be emblematic of so many kids with Dravet's and other convulsive disorders, that was a very significant moment for me—not just as a doctor, but on a personal level, too.

Given how high the stakes are for patients like Charlotte, and countless others whose access to medical marijuana is a life-or-death issue, it's incredibly

confounding that this safe, all-natural option remains illegal federally and in so many states. As a leading voice in both the media and the medical establishment, can you explain why these two institutions have so profoundly failed to make this kind of information available to the American public in a timely and objective manner?

That's tough to answer. Certainly, I've apologized for contributing to this myself.

The biggest problem is that, if you're looking at the medical literature in this country to get a sense of what marijuana is all about and where the research is pointing, you get a distorted image. The whole infrastructure by which medical marijuana can be studied is very challenging. At the heart of the approval process is the National Institute on Drug Abuse [NIDA], whose very mission is to study the harms of drugs. Still, I don't know if that's so much an excuse as an explanation—because if you do dive into the studies and follow the science, you will eventually see that there's something else going on.

In your apology, you used the term "systematically misled," which means people within the government are knowingly deceiving us. Why? What do they have to gain?

First of all, when I say "systematically misled," I don't mean just the government. Obviously, the government has played a big role in this, but there are others as well. I'm probably telling you things you already know, but if you look at the trajectory of these laws going back to the late 1930s, there were a lot of different mechanisms at play. Back then, marijuana was still part of the [US] Pharmacopeia, meaning doctors could legitimately prescribe it—so it was threatening to the emerging pharmaceutical companies of that time. You also had marijuana's cousin, hemp, which was threatening



Dr. Gupta traveled the world to learn firsthand about the facts of medical cannabis.

"When I look at cases like Charlotte, the little girl with Dravet's we discussed earlier, you see how important it is to have different strains of marijuana with different concentrations of THC and CBD."

to many other industries. And so you get things like Reefer Madness, funded in part by William Randolph Hearst and DuPont Chemicals. Then, shortly after alcohol prohibition ended, we got our first version of the Drug Czar, whose mission soon included targeting marijuana.

How about what's going on right now? When we look at all of the conventional pharmaceutical drugs that medical marijuana can potentially reduce or replace, do you think this ongoing attempt to mislead the public is being undertaken in part to protect the profits of the Big Pharma corporations that produce and sell those drugs?

It might be. I don't want to get into the realm of conjecture here. But I do think that when you look at pain pills and that part of the pharmaceutical industry ... well, that's a big industry. And we also know that some of the syndromes that these pain pills are supposed to be treating, they just don't work very well for those—neuropathic pain, for example. Meanwhile, there's two pretty darn good papers that talk about marijuana as being efficacious for neuropathic pain.

So it's clear that marijuana could be a very legitimate option to treat some of these pain syndromes, and that could raise some concerns for people who like it the way it is.

Now that you've seen the light when it comes to marijuana, does it make you look at other aspects of conventional medicine with increased skepticism? Put another way: If the government, the media and the medical establishment have been so wrong about marijuana for 70 years, how can we trust them when it comes to any other aspect of our nation's health care?

I think a healthy dose of skepticism is always good, but I don't want to overstate that. I think the issues surrounding marijuana are somewhat unique. Still, I've done a lot of reporting regarding the use of various prescription medications, including the stunning fact that roughly every 19 minutes, an American dies of accidental prescription-drug overdose. That's not a number that you hear very much—nor the fact that people take these narcotic medications for years on end, when we know that after six months, not only

do they stop working very well, they can actually lead to hyperalgesia syndromes where you experience more pain, including in areas where you didn't have pain before, causing you to take even more of the substance.

So I'm skeptical in the sense that we don't hear enough about this. And I think that digging deeper and really looking into that is important.

All of those pharmaceutical companies are heavy advertisers in the media. Does that play a role in the kind of reporting we see on this issue?

I can speak for myself and say, honestly, that's not something that's ever impacted my reporting. Prior to my current investigation of medical marijuana, I actually did an entire documentary looking at prescription-drug overdoses. But overall, I just don't know.

Since legitimate marijuana studies looking at the plant's medical benefits can be blocked by NIDA's refusal to provide federally legal cannabis for research purposes, how do we overcome that monopoly on supply and get this research moving forward?

Again, I don't know. It will be interesting to see if the states will be able to take some of this on. I actually went down to the farm in Mississippi where the only federally legal medical supply is cultivated, and they're not even growing any marijuana this year—even though there's demand for it from a research standpoint. Also, the marijuana that's grown there is not very heterogeneous; it's one very particular variety. And when I look at cases like Charlotte, the little girl with Dravet's we discussed earlier, you see how important it is to have different strains of marijuana with different concentrations of THC and CBD.

Meanwhile, it's very confusing for everybody right now when it comes to predicting



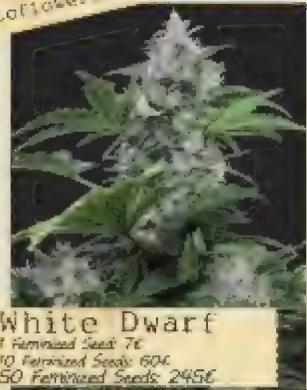
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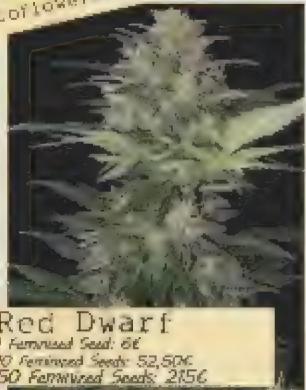
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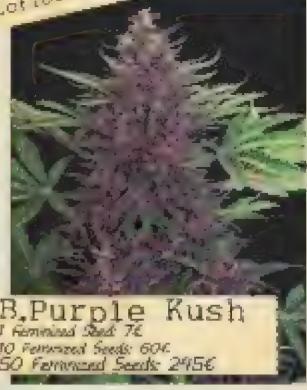
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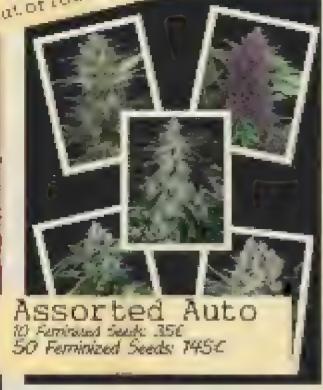
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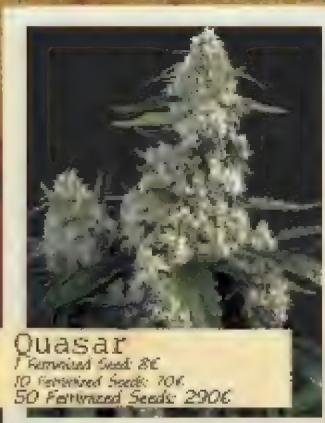


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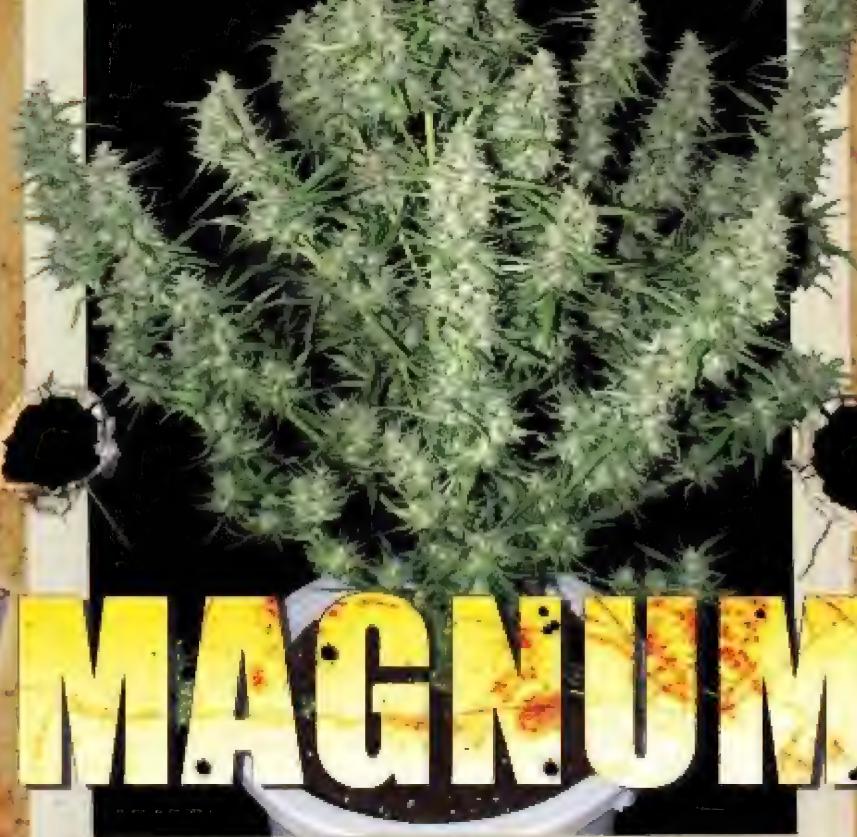
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how the relationship between the states and the Feds is going to play out over the next few years. But from a purely scientific perspective, there may be some opportunities opening up if the federal government will at least step aside and allow the states to fund this research.

Are you familiar with efforts by an organization called the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies to create a second federal facility to grow medical marijuana for FDA-approved research studies? In 2007, one of the DEA's own administrative-law judges recommended granting a license to open this second facility, but DEA administrators dragged their feet for four years before finally rejecting the application.

Yeah, I heard about that. And I think that purely from a scientist's standpoint, the best science comes when you have all options available—and in the case of marijuana, that includes having access to all the different strains. So having more locations where it's grown would likely be a benefit.

Right now, there's this total disconnect. I know various scientists who want to do this research, they have construed studies not targeted to look for harm, but in investigating potential medical applications, and then I'm hearing from the people down in Mississippi, who are actually responsible for creating the only legal federal supply, that there's no demand for it, to the point they're not growing any. And so somewhere there's a disconnect.

It's at NIDA, because they're the only ones that can approve a request for research marijuana.



Dr. Gupta offered a heartfelt apology to cannabis patients.

"It's tough to write an op-ed like the one I published—especially my apology. But I believed it was the right thing to do."

They're always the middle man to access that supply. So it's pretty disingenuous for the facility in Mississippi to claim there's no demand, when they know full well that's only because the federal government consistently denies such requests whenever they believe the research will show benefits instead of harm.

Meanwhile, what has the reaction been among your colleagues in the media and medical establishment, now that you've called out this systematic campaign to keep the public from discovering the truth about medical marijuana?

With my colleagues in the media, for the most part it's been positive, though this has all still been challenging for me. It's tough to write an op-ed like the one I published—especially my apology. But it was the right thing to do.

I think the medical establishment as a whole is more entrenched, though there's also polling showing that roughly 76

percent of physicians say they'd consider recommending marijuana for an advanced breast-cancer patient. So I'm certainly getting a lot of supportive emails. When the concerns do come up, they typically revolve around this idea of "Aren't you sending the wrong message to kids?" ... whether it's people I know in the medical profession, or just on Twitter and Facebook.

And I understand that concern—I have kids of my own—but I'm not talking about encouraging young kids to go out and start smoking marijuana; that's not the point at all. And unfortunately, this argument has been used to muddy the waters since long before I ever got involved. The idea that we should prevent people from accessing a therapy that can really help them simply to prevent marijuana from being legitimized as safe—I just think that's an unfair tradeoff.

Do you think marijuana is as safe as, or safer than, alcohol? And do you think it's safe enough to be used by any adult in the same way as alcohol?

I can tell you what I know of the science between marijuana and alcohol, but I find these sorts of moral-equivalence questions get in the way. Still, to answer your question, fewer people become dependent on marijuana than alcohol. I've seen the withdrawal symptoms of alcoholics firsthand; they can be frightening and even life-threatening—whereas withdrawal from marijuana, if there's dependence, tends to be far more innocuous. And I've never seen or even heard about a documented case of fatal marijuana overdose. *

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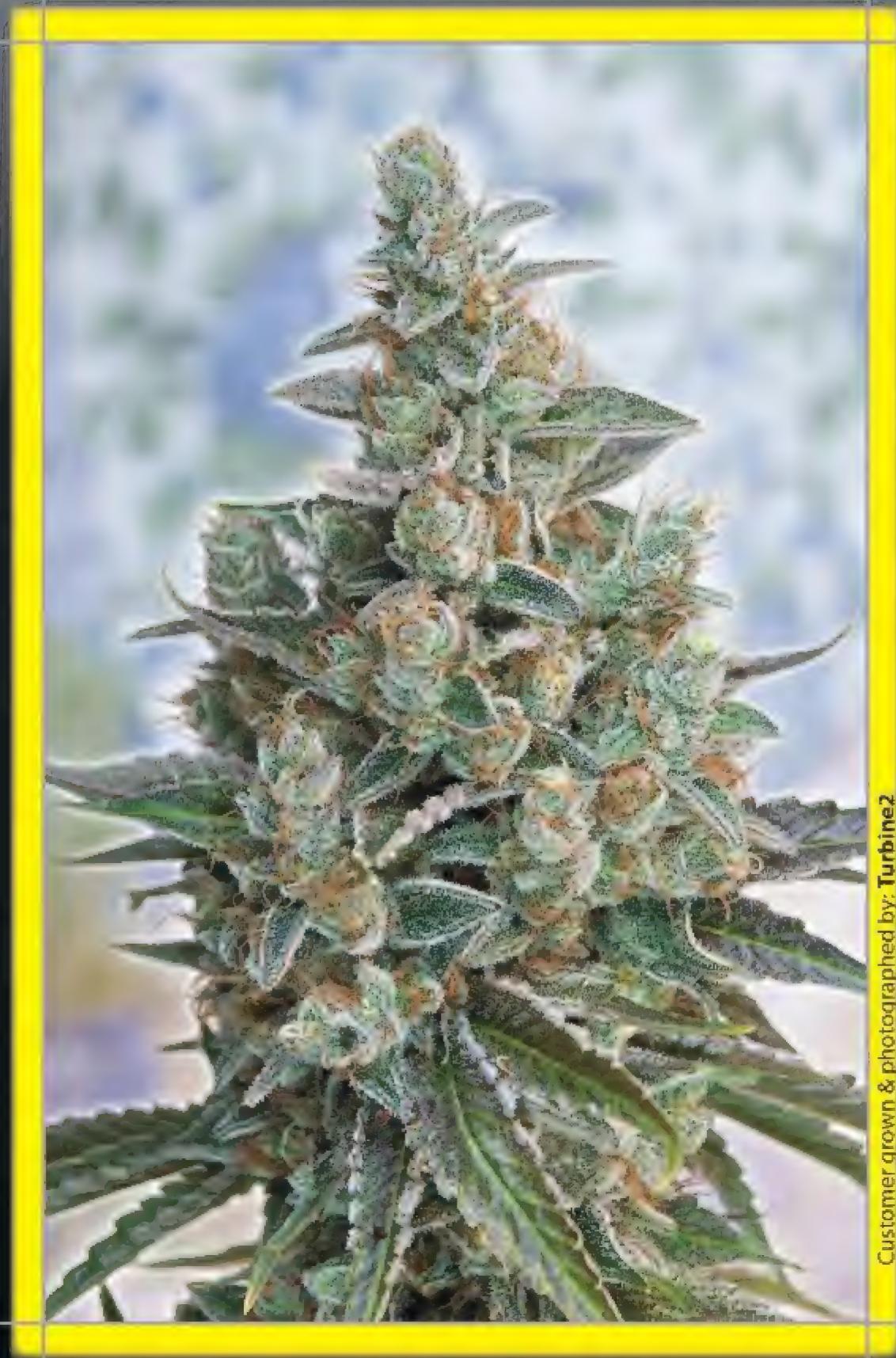
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SUBJECT: Companion Plants for Pot

FROM: Deon

✉ Greetings from Cape Town, South Africa! I love the podcast—the cultivation sections are amazing! I especially enjoy the rare info and insights into growing *sativas* and growing organically; the perspectives provided by you and the growers you talk to are comprehensive and inspiring!

I'd love to hear if you have any ideas about using permaculture guilds or other forms of companion planting that see other plants (besides beneficial fungi) providing pest-repellent, beneficial-insect-attractant or other salutary qualities to one's cannabis garden. It's a topic that, frustratingly, is scarcely covered in the permaculture literature.

Dear Deon,

Thanks for the kind words about the *Free Weed* podcast! Permaculture is a great way to grow outdoor marijuana. The term means simply that you're improving the quality of your soil each year by using compost, beneficial bacteria and organic additives. All of these practices increase the microbial activity in your soil (as well as helping to loosen clay soils). As for companion plants, marigolds will help keep away whiteflies, peppermint deters aphid populations, and dill discourages spider mites. Beneficial insects such as ladybugs, predator mites and praying mantises can all be part of a permaculture approach to cannabis farming.



Ladybugs devour harmful pests such as aphids and spider mites.

Danko Tip: Store bottles of nutrients, pesticides, and pH Up and Down in a cool, dark place away from direct sunlight at all times.



SUBJECT: Growbox Guidance
FROM: Miguel

Hi! I'm interested in purchasing a growbox, but I can't find any information about the lights. I want to know how I would get the cannabis to start flowering: Do they come with a switch to turn the lights off? Could I use a timer for the lights? Or is there some other method for making the plants flower? Growboxes are a bit expensive, so I need to know this information before I decide to make the investment. Thank you very much for your time.

Dear Miguel,
Growboxes come in many shapes and sizes as well as a wide range of prices.

The lighting is generally provided by 240-, 400- or 600-watt high-intensity discharge (HID) lights. Sometimes metal halide (MH) lights are used, but most of the larger boxes mainly use high-pressure sodium (HPS) lights. Some of the newer boxes feature light-emitting diode (LED) technology, which is showing more and more promise, and some units use supplemental fluorescent lighting as well. I've even seen larger boxes that pair two 600-watt lights side by side, but that's about as much light as I think you can have in an enclosed box without having constant issues with heat buildup.

Almost every growbox on the market comes with a timer that turns the lights on and off as needed (18 to 22 hours of light per day during the vegetative stage,

and 12 hours of darkness following 12 hours of light for flowering). This is the only way to make plants flower, aside from using auto-flowering strains that bloom regardless of the photoperiod.

I should also mention that we recently published "The *High Times* Growbox Buyer's Guide" (Nov. '13), which is available online for free at hightimes.com/growbox. We reviewed and rated boxes from many of the top companies, so check that out for a more detailed description of what each one has to offer.

SUBJECT: Growing Strong
FROM: Joe W.

First off, I have to give you praise: *High Times* was the sole reason that I was able to reap my first good harvest seven-plus years back. My grow was based on a dresser setup that was featured in the July 2006 issue (in an article titled "Snappy Dresser"). Reading that issue and seeing what could be done with such a simple and concealable grow was the deciding factor for me to start growing.

At the time, growing of any kind was completely illegal in Michigan, and coming up with the equipment was hard enough even if you weren't on a tight budget, let alone if you were. My very first grow was a miserable failure, netting me a whopping bowl's worth that was harsh and had next to no high. I moved shortly after that first "harvest" and decided I needed a rethink my situation. That was when the July '06 issue came out, and when I stumbled onto this "ultimate stealth garden," I knew I'd found a new model to replicate as best as I could. Tents and growboxes were still relatively new technology to me then and nearly impossible to come by without ordering them online or by mail (and having a paper trail leading to my doorstep).

My second attempt was miles beyond the previous go. I bought a dresser 3 feet high by 2.5 feet wide by 1.5 feet deep. The top of the dresser had 5" x 22" fluorescent "grow lights" purchased from Walmart. I also made eight hanging compact-fluorescent sockets from lamp kits. The walls were lined with tinfoil, and the exhaust and intake fans were standard desk fans mounted into the back of the unit. I also had two 3-inch mini-fans for circulation in the tiny space. Growth was extremely slow—stout but slow. Of the five seeds I

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had come by in the bags of weed I had, three ended up being males, and the only real prize seed I had was a White Russian. I wound up with about half an ounce, which was still better than my first attempt, and I also vowed that if I ever decided to grow again, I would do it by the book and be less cost-conscious with my next setup.

Shortly after that, however, I enlisted in the US Air Force, so toking had to go by the wayside for a few years. In 2008, I was diagnosed with ALL (acute lymphoblastic leukemia). I was still on active duty with the Air Force at the time and living in Texas. In the spring of 2008, however, Michigan's medical marijuana law went into effect, so I moved back home the following summer and carried on with my treatment. During the more intense parts of my chemo, marijuana was a godsend, allowing me to sleep when my narcotic sleeping pills wouldn't work. I was taking less of my Percocet for breakthrough pain and was able to finally level off on the amount of fentanyl I needed. I was also able to eat, which had become an issue due to the nausea from all of the 14 different drugs I was taking.

And so here we are today: I'm growing once again, this time legally. I have a 3.25' x 3.25' x 7' tent, a 600-watt HPS light with a digital ballast, and a 6-inch air-cooled reflector that draws spent air from the room through a carbon filter, to the reflector and out the other side. I'm growing in soil and started from clones, and I just wanted to say thanks!

Dear Joe,

It's good to hear that our articles inspired you to get growing—and congratulations on being able to produce your own medicine legally in Michigan! The benefits of medical marijuana are something we hear about over and over from patients and veterans such as yourself. My only advice about the first decent grow you described would be that tinfoil isn't an ideal reflective material: It will create hotspots where the reflection is more intense, while other parts of the foil will dull your reflective capabilities. Also, beneath the foil you're creating a perfect place for mites and other pests to hide. You're always better off painting the surface of your grow area with flat white paint and keeping it clean to prevent pests and mold.



SUBJECT: High CBD Strains

FROM: Grow Vegas

My question is about CBD strains. I saw a recent CNN special where Dr. Sanjay Gupta reversed his opinion on marijuana and now sees the medical benefits. Personally, I'm experimenting with different strains to treat inflammation caused by ulcerative colitis. Turns out the medicine I've been taking to treat it for the past 8 years can cause lymphoma...bummer. I want to be proactive and find an alternative (preferably natural) without such negative side effects. The strains that were in the show have 20% or more CBD and <1% THC. Do you know of any seed breeders that currently offer such strains? I'm currently growing Critical Mass by the CBD Crew which is supposed to be 50/50 (the best I could find), but am looking for a higher CBD ratio so I'm not stoned all day or when I need to work. Any suggestions?

Dear Grow,

I know of several reputable breeders who sell high CBD strains in seed form. Resin Seeds has Cannatonic, a one-to-one THC/CBD ratio pain-relieving strain. Royal Queen Seeds has Royal Highness, another high CBD variety that could work for you. CBD Crew, whose Critical Mass you're already growing, is a joint venture between Mr. Nice Seedbank and Resin Seeds and offers a number of high CBD strains in seed form, including CBD Shark, which is *indica*-dominant and just might perfectly suit your medicinal needs. MTG Seeds have won our Cannabis Cup Awards for High CBD with their CB CanD and CB Diesel, using them to make oil and edibles. Search

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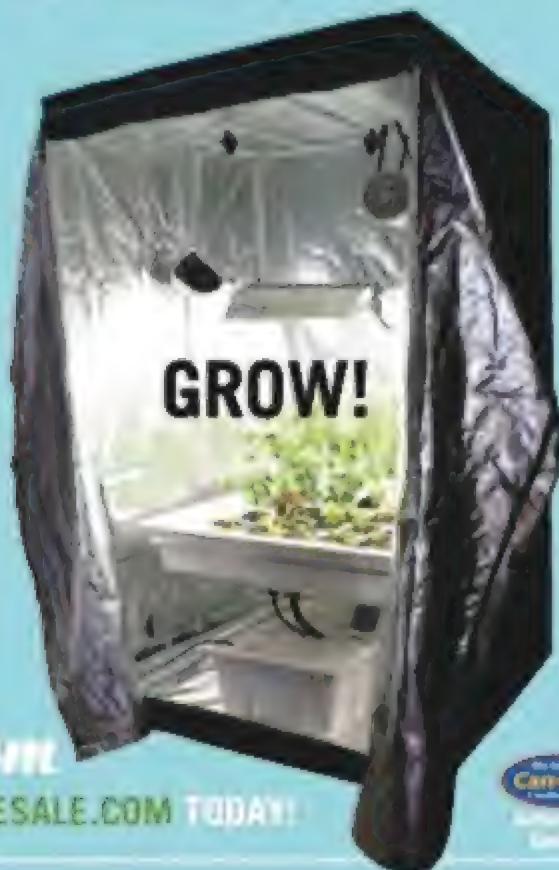
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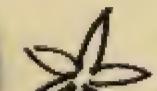
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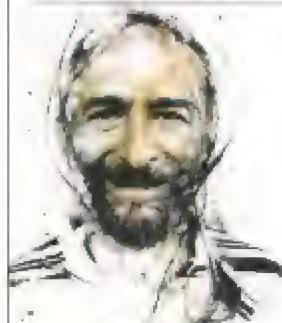
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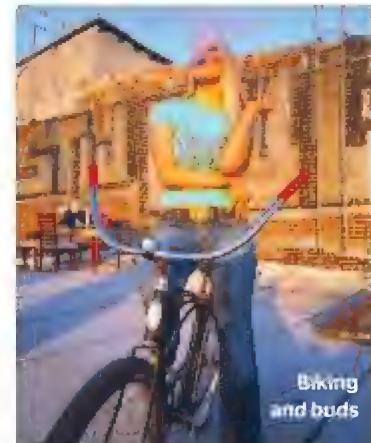
Tobacco, hemp buildings and fitness highs.

Got a question for Dr. Mitch? Email him at 420research@gmail.com.

My wife is screaming about some new study that relates weed to strokes. Help me out.

TD Abides

Hi TD,
She needs to read the fine print and stop trusting the media. New Zealand researchers compared people hospitalized for strokes to those who came in for other reasons. More of the stroke patients tested positive for THC—but once the researchers controlled for tobacco use, there was no effect from cannabis. If your wife is encouraging you to quit tobacco, she must love you and want you around. *Smokefree.gov* has apps, a phone line and tons of info.



Hi NJ,
Researchers in Australia studied cannabis aficionados who rode an exercise bike for 35 minutes. Sure enough, the THC levels in their blood increased after the ride. It wasn't a huge effect, but if it keeps you exercising, who can criticize?

Are there really buildings made of hemp?

Frank L.W.

Hi Frank,
There are indeed many hemp buildings currently standing, including the Adnams Brewery in Suffolk, England, called "Britain's greenest warehouse." Hemp combined with starch makes a remarkably light building material with great acoustical and thermal properties. Although I doubt we'll see a hemp skyscraper anytime soon, environmentalists are championing hemp for all kinds of modern architecture.

I feel like my workouts are a lot more enjoyable the day after I party with the plant. Could this be possible?

Not Jillian

My aunt has MS, and I wonder if hemp-seed oil could help her.

Beast

Hi Beast,
It might. Hemp-seed oil has fatty acids that can help the immune response. Researchers in Iran gave MS patients their usual medications plus a combination of hemp-seed oil and evening primrose oil for six months; they improved more than folks who were given olive oil. It's obviously not a cure for MS, but hemp-seed oil has plenty of therapeutic potential, and it's unlikely to have negative side effects. 🌿

Dr. Mitch Earleywine, PhD, is an associate professor of psychology at SUNY Albany and the author of *Understanding Marijuana and The Parents' Guide to Marijuana*.



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And the Walls Came Tumbling Down

Recreational pot laws usher in a new era of acceptance.

The announcement by the Justice Department that it will not interfere with recreational marijuana laws in Colorado and Washington has finally sounded the death knell for marijuana prohibition in the USA. Despite over 80 years of reefer-madness propaganda, many Americans are realizing at long last that marijuana prohibition never should have been enacted. Quite simply, laws against the plant have done more harm to this country than anything the plant could ever do.

Keep in mind that the Justice Department doesn't have a problem with legal marijuana so long as the means of production are tightly controlled and monitored. Obviously, the government doesn't want to see hundreds of thousands of homegrowers producing their own medicine—a total nightmare scenario for the pharmaceutical industry.

In Colorado, anyone can grow up to six plants as long as the grow site is a closed and locked location. Only three of those plants can be flowering at the same time. In Washington, on the other hand, only medical marijuana patients, not recreational users, are allowed to cultivate.

The walls are about to come tumbling down because the quality of life in Colorado and Washington is going to improve dramatically as the result of cannabis legalization, despite scare stories to the contrary. Drunk driving will likely go down, and so will traffic accidents as people turn to cannabis instead of alcohol to relax. Jobs will be created, and marijuana money will flow into Colorado and Washington to such an extent that neighboring states will also pass recreational pot laws. Plus it's going to become harder to justify mandatory minimums, asset seizures and forfeitures, and other forms of abuse heaped upon our stoner culture. One of the worst crimes of pot prohibition has been breaking up families and placing kids in foster care. Soon it will be very hard to enforce



these outrageous laws, once the nation witnesses the benefits of legalization.

Did you know that the first US income tax was introduced to pay for the Civil War, but it proved wildly unpopular and was quickly repealed once that war was over? From 1872 until 1913, the cost of running the government was paid mostly by an alcohol tax, and the Supreme Court even ruled that the income tax was

unconstitutional in 1895. But in 1913, the passage of the 16th Amendment legalized the income tax, which was promoted primarily as the means to get rid of "the saloon problem." See, no one thought that alcohol prohibition would work because the government depended so heavily on tax revenue from alcohol sales. So the income tax was sold to America as the first step in enacting alcohol prohibition.

The laws against alcohol were never really enforced because the Treasury Department didn't have enough agents and there was so much graft and corruption involved. But as soon as alcohol prohibition collapsed, the government created cannabis prohibition, something that was done in part to save the bureaucracy that had been established during the Prohibition era. Anti-alcohol agents were simply retooled as anti-cannabis agents, because that's the reality of bureaucracies: They have a way of becoming self-sustaining. Drug prohibition laws created the most destructive bureaucracies in America. But just as the Berlin Wall came down in a few weeks, Americans can soon look forward to the complete collapse of marijuana prohibition.

I just hope the bureaucracies are not retooled to continue prohibition against other natural plants. If the government wants to prohibit something, it might consider getting rid of GMOs and other forms of poison being passed off as food. This time around, let's retool our narcs in ways that will benefit public safety and protect the environment instead of harassing peaceful, hardworking members of society. *

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I've attended a few conventions at the massive Jacob Javits Convention Center on NYC's west side during my life—the International Car Show once, and a few Comic-Cons—but never before had I been confronted with such delicious fragrances as I was while entering the International Fancy Food Confection Show last summer. Normally, I'd never have known about this exclusive event (let alone skipped out on work and paid the \$60-plus to get into it) had we not been invited by one of the convention's newest and most unorthodox participants: our friends at Magical Butter.

The Magical Butter machine is an electronic extractor that effortlessly infuses the essence of an herb (any old herb will do, though we prefer cannabis) into butter or oil for use in cooking. The device is as simple as it is ingenious: similar in design to an electric water kettle, you simply put your butter or oil and your plant material into the pitcher, set your temp and push the button. And just like that, within two hours you have perfectly potent canna-butter, tincture or even lotion.

The company's mastermind and CEO Garyn Angel met us in the center lobby wearing his signature promotional attire: a green, stoned-smiley tee under a blazer and a fuzzy green troll wig. He handed us a few of their employee passes to get us in, but we were made by security and had to walk down to another entrance door to pull it off. The sights and smells of 80 countries' culinary curiosities were on display—with vendors feverishly giving demos, handing out samples and taking orders. Cookies, candies, cheeses, nuts, liquors, sauces...there was even a booth that had cocktails inside tiny breath spray bottles so you could get a buzz without having to drink. It was a truly sensational smorgasbord.

When we reached Magical Butter's booth, Garyn was eager



Garyn and his Butterfaces

to show off his custom-designed green VW style mini-bus, equipped with a full sound system. He even acted out a rap performance of their promo song worthy of a Justin Timberlake sketch on SNL. While a couple of their neighbors seemed a bit put off by their outlandish style and rather overt stoner references, the majority of their co-conventioneers were at least curious if not outright amused by the colorful crew and their innovative appliance.

After a brief interview and a few vapor pen rips, I was off to explore the rest of the expo. It was the last day of the convention, and as closing time approached the booths were beginning to break down—and were giving

away or dumping the majority of their stock. Frantically, I began trolling the aisles looking for as many fancy freebies as I could snag. Natural organic peanut butter, Mexican hot chocolate, imported asiago cheese, Stubbs barbecue sauce, gourmet hot fudge sauce, even chocolate covered hemp seeds ... I acquired all sorts of gourmet goodies. Within minutes I'd quickly filled a large plastic trash bag and was starting on a second, when the bag suddenly broke and spilled my entire haul out across the carpet. I managed to pull it all together and, deciding it was high time to go, headed for the exit.

Ironically, security was now trying to stop us from *leaving*: it seems convention rules stated that no one was allowed to bring merchandise outside the expo—an absurdly wasteful policy, considering the only alternative was for vendors to throw hundreds if not thousands of dollars of perfectly good food into the garbage. I lingered nonchalantly a few yards away

from the escalator and waited until the security guard was distracted by someone else leaving with bags, then stealthily slipped past them with my luscious loot. And while none of the tasty treats I brought home were medicated, they were all nonetheless divine. *

Watch the interview at
hightimes.com/magicalbutter



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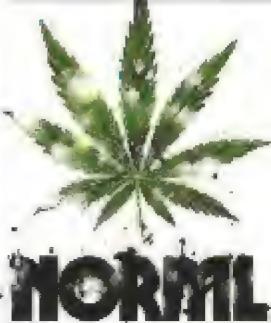
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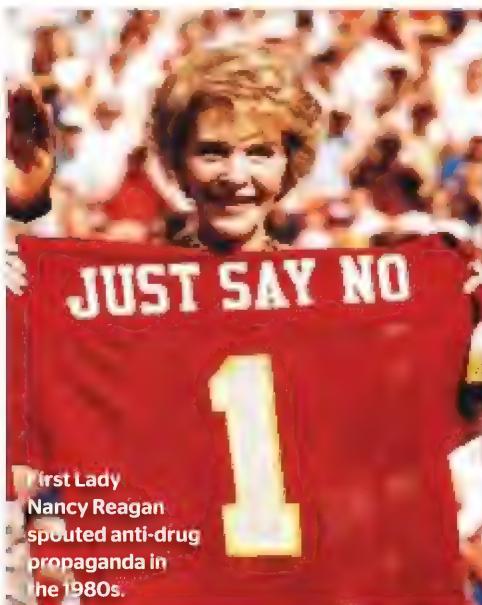
A new generation of lawmakers has rejected reefer madness.

By Allen St. Pierre is the executive director of NORML. Visit norml.org.

Since the early 1990s, marijuana law reformers have lobbied hundreds of elected policymakers and their staffs in the push to end cannabis prohibition. Progress came slowly, if it came at all. But the "Baby Boomer" generation has the reins of power now, taking over from a World War II generation brainwashed by *Reefer Madness*-style propaganda.

Twenty years ago, making a congressman or senator understand that cannabis is not crack, not a narcotic and will not cause males to develop breasts was a Herculean effort. How times have changed! Today, as a clear indication that we're living through the final days of pot prohibition, an elected official or staff member—in order to establish their bona fides—will reveal that they used to grow pot in college, sell a little on the side or were the joint-rolling champion of their fraternity!

When a NORML staffer and I recently visited a legislative director to win support for a measure allowing consumers, under a proposed decriminalization bill, to cultivate up to three plants for personal use, he insisted that "three plants is a lot of weed." When we tried to disabuse him of the notion, he wryly blurted out that he knew how much bud a cannabis plant can yield because his "plants in college could produce over a pound each."



Well ... okay. Instead of fighting over the specifics of the bill, we found ourselves congratulating the LD for his green-thumb skills.

Capitol Hill was a lonely place for marijuana-law reformers in the "Just Say No" era. These days, however, any cannabis-related event or press conference in Washington, DC—as well as state capitals—packs in legislative staffers, policy wonks from think tanks and members of the media.

Consider the following from the otherwise staid and decidedly "uncool" Brookings Institution: "In less than a decade, public opinion has shifted dramatically

toward support for the legalization of marijuana Demographic change and widespread public experience using marijuana imply that opposition to legalization will never again return to the levels seen in the 1980s. The strong consensus that formed the foundation for many of today's stringent marijuana laws has crumbled."

Indeed it has. Never in modern history has there existed greater public support for ending the nation's nearly century-long experiment with pot prohibition and replacing it with a system of legalization and regulation.

While a group of American citizens deemed "the greatest generation" is gradually fading away, a new generation of Americans—one that has been exposed to cannabis since the 1960s and '70s—has decided to come out in favor of reefer sanity. In the near future, I suspect many elite Baby Boomer types will offer only tepid opposition to substantive cannabis-law reforms. (I'm looking at you, Mr. President, leader of the ganja-loving "Choom Gang" in 1970s Hawaii.)

As we've witnessed before, controversial social policies provide opportunities for our political leaders to evolve. Much like the case for gay marriage—once considered too taboo for serious politicians even to consider—the necessity and pragmatism of ending cannabis prohibition will lead them to the Promised Land.

FREEDOM FIGHTER

Untamed Colt

Colt Smith is a force for change in the Lone Star State.

Rural Texas is an area not often considered a hot spot for marijuana law reform, but one Texan is looking to make changes. Colt Smith founded Hub City NORML earlier this year in Lubbock, TX—the only local marijuana-law reform group within 350 miles. Colt knew he wanted to bring change to his region, but he was uncertain about the kind of reception

he would get. It turns out that his fellow Texans were champing at the bit to get involved. After forming the group, Colt arranged a "coming-out" party, the Hub City NORML Conference and Music Fest, which was held last August. In attendance were 17 bands, five guest speakers, glassblowers giving demonstrations and a huge crowd



every night. A financial and organizational success, the event brought in twice as much money as Hub City NORML hoped to raise, and grew its ranks from 75 members to over 225.

Prior to the event, Colt met with lawmakers and Lubbock City Council members and was interviewed by the local media, including KLBK, the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal and Fox News Lubbock. He has since been

By Erik Altieri, NORML communications coordinator

invited to speak by various organizations in the area whose members attended the event, including the Lubbock County Democratic Party's executive committee.

"Our mission is to deliver a message of truth, develop new activists and further arm current activists," Colt says. "We want to create a safe place for people to have open and honest conversations about our current cannabis policy—in Texas and America."

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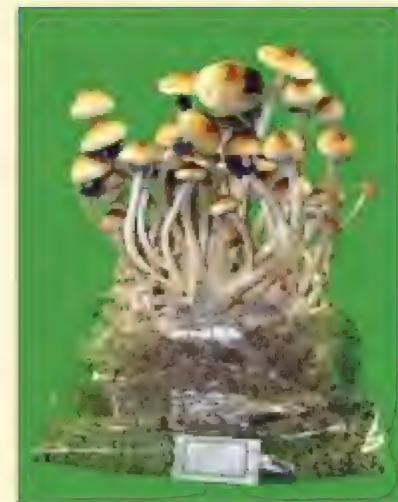
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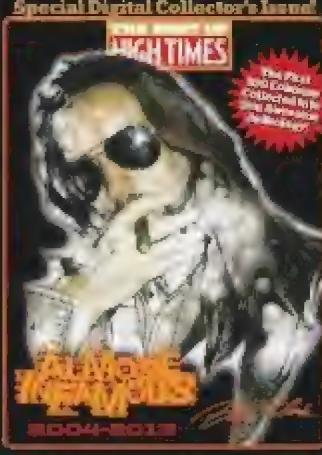
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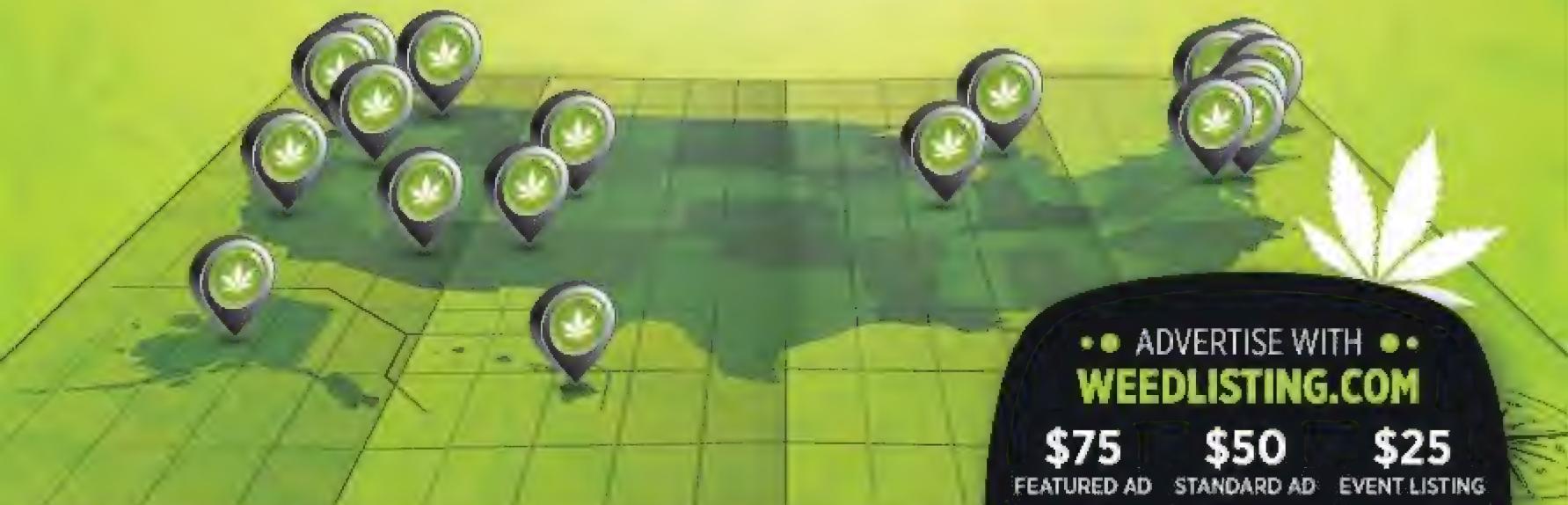
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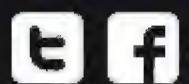
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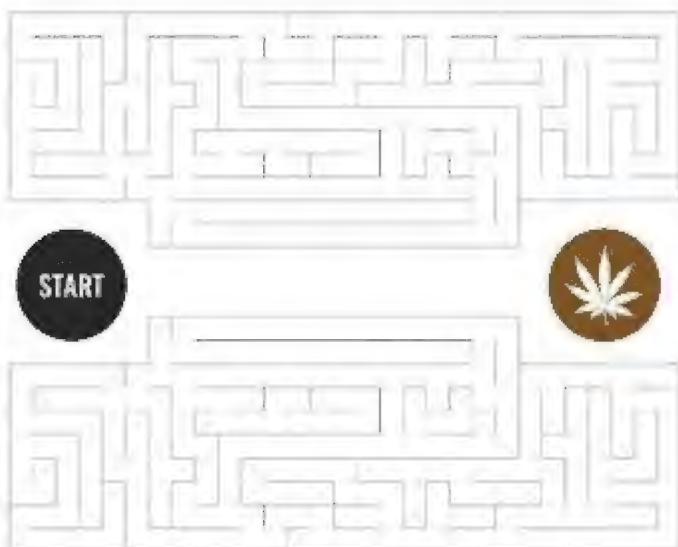
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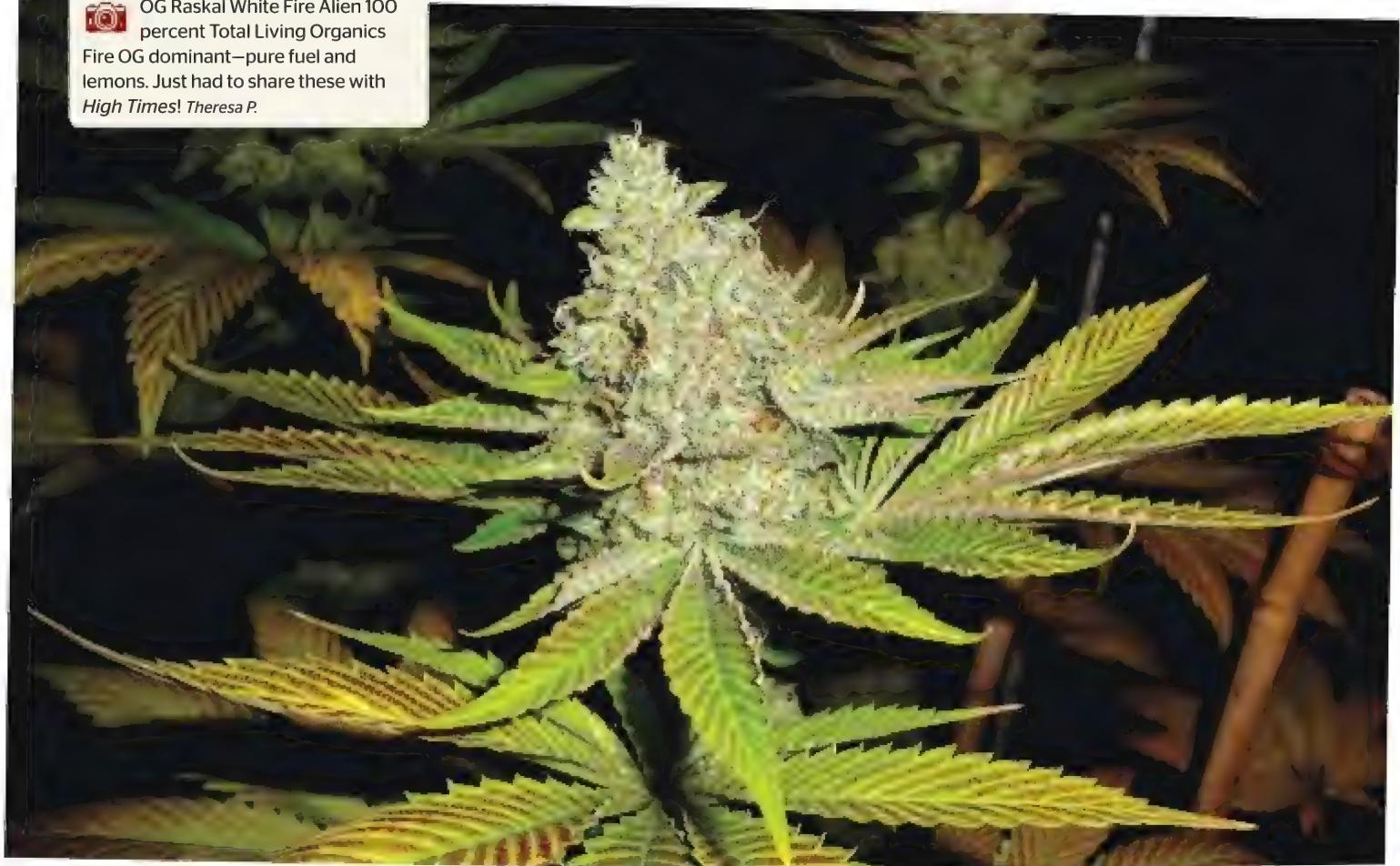
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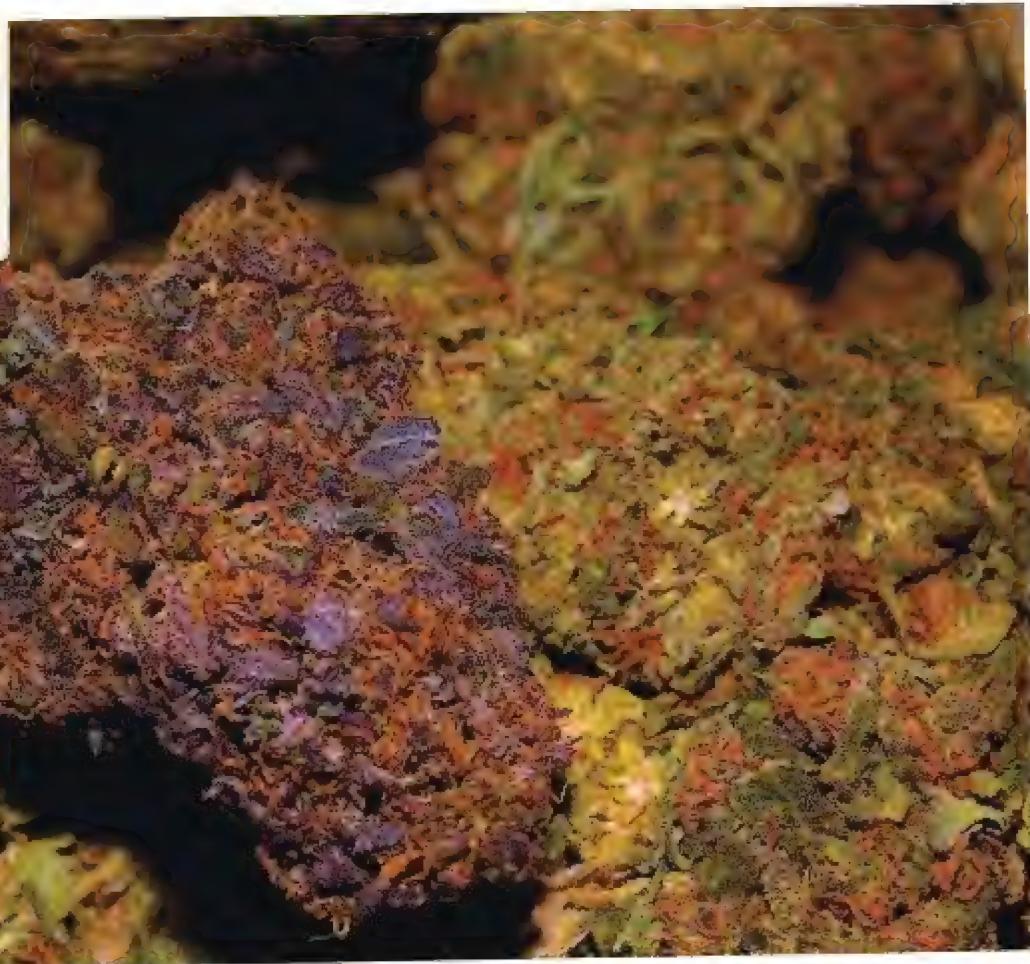
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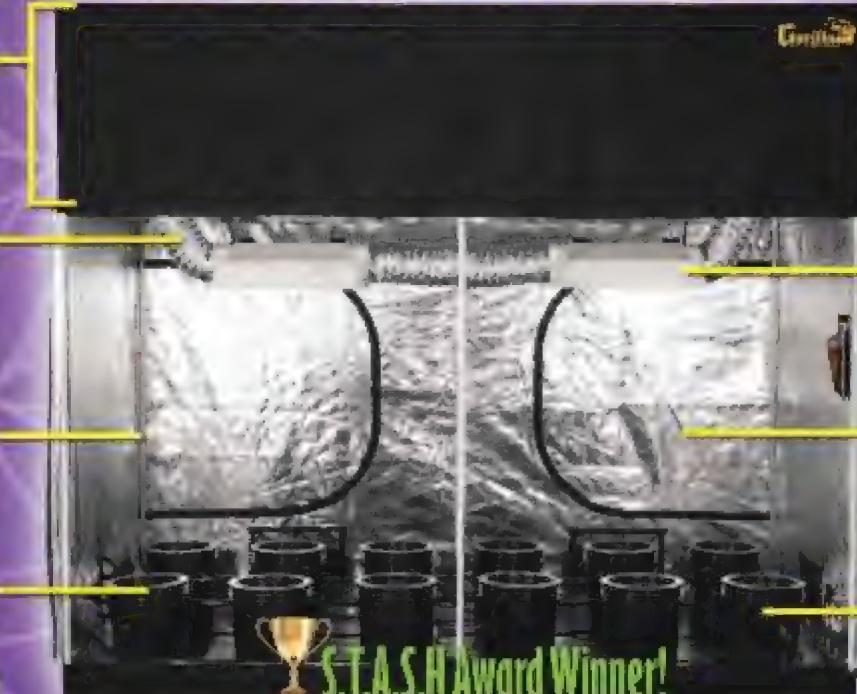
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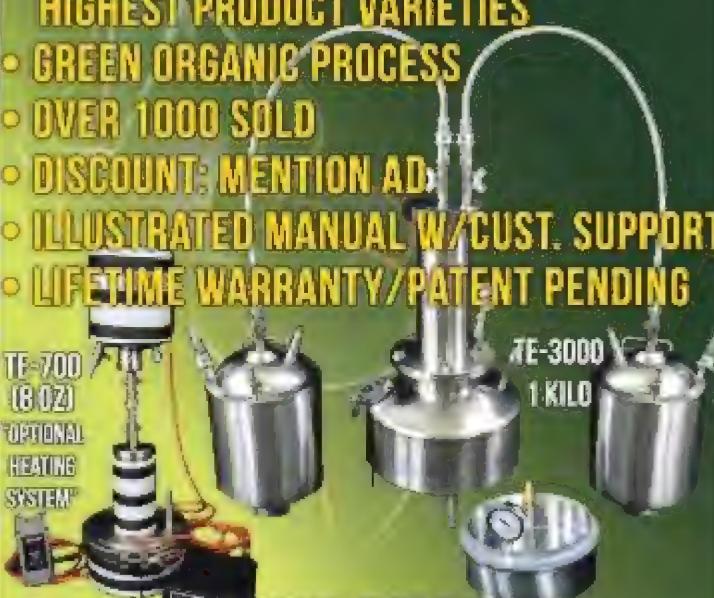
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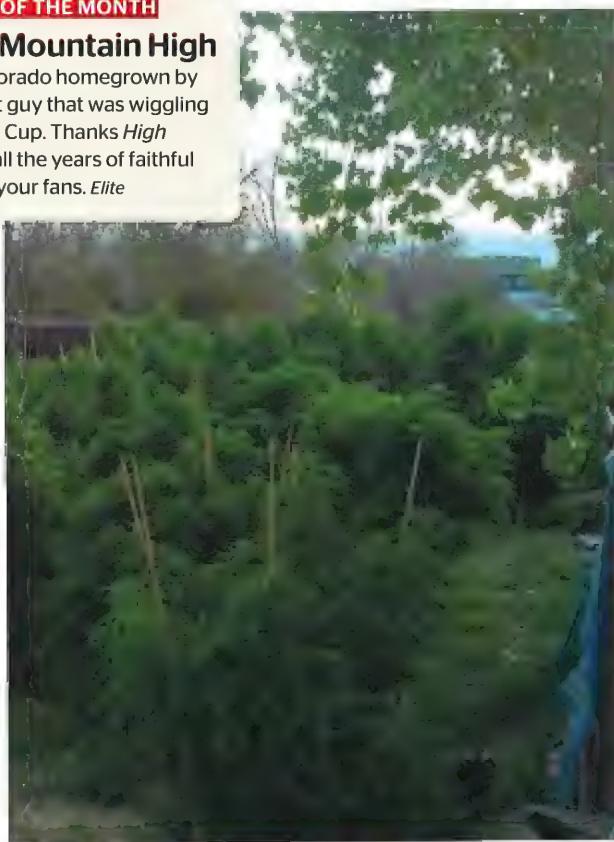
 My hat's off to you *High Times*. I've learned a lot over the years! *Mr. Greenthumb*



GROWER OF THE MONTH

Rocky Mountain High

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GREENHOUSE OF THE MONTH

Lost in Michigan

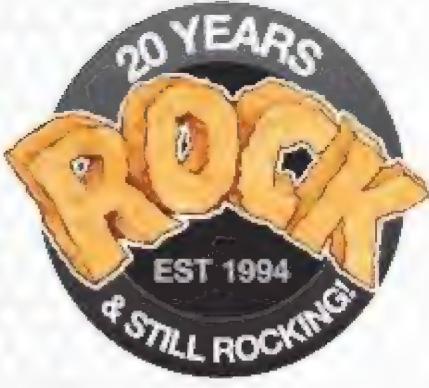
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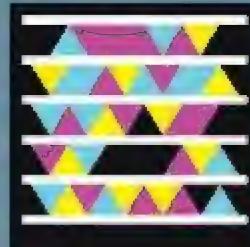
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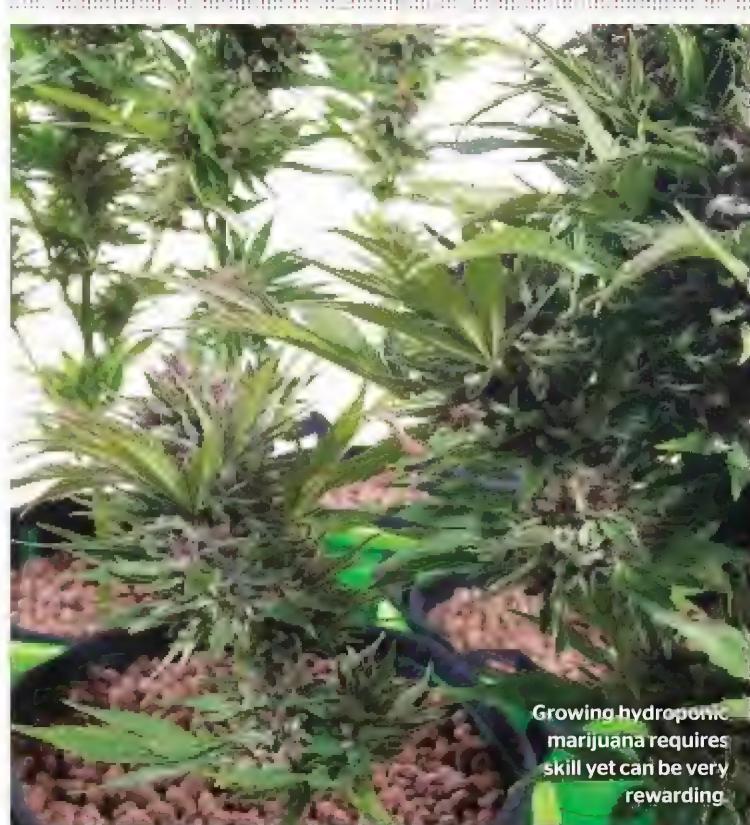
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February 2014

HIGH TIMES



Growing hydroponic marijuana requires skill yet can be very rewarding

► Our Annual High-Flyin' Hydro Issue!

Perfect your hydroponic pot-gardening skills with our report on the best hydro systems on the planet! Because successful growing without soil requires your operation to always be dialed in, our cultivation department has scoured the world to find products and techniques that will help you avoid costly mistakes.

► From Seed to Sale

Do you have big dreams of starting a grow op, or opening a dispensary in Colorado? Before packing your bags and jumping into the growing cannabis industry, hear from Ryan Cook, manager of The Clinic dispensaries and a multiple Cannabis Cup champion.

► Amsterdam Growroom Design

Nico Escondido travels to Holland to tour several uniquely designed growrooms. Along the way, he reveals secrets, tricks and tips on building the perfect space to maximize your yield.

► Really Rad Rigs

As the popularity of concentrates grows, consumers are demanding proper tools to enjoy dabbing to the fullest. Check out the best rigs on the market!

► Activists vs. Prohibitionists in California

This past September, organizers refused to let *High Times* into the Marijuana Policy and Strategy Conference in Rancho Cucamonga. As marijuana laws fall state by state, what are prohibitionists planning, and what are they trying to hide?

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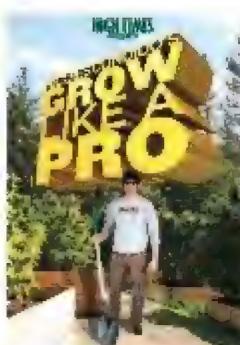


Featured Products



HIGH TIMES Cultivation Editors' Combo Pack

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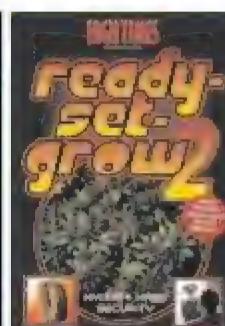
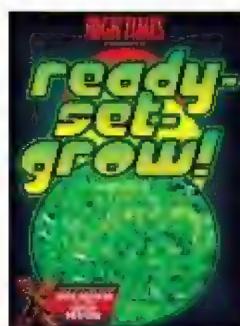
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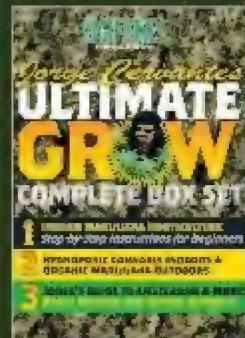
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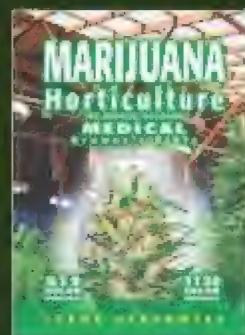
Lots of issues available! HIGH TIMES: \$5.99; Best Of HIGH TIMES: \$6.99; HIGH TIMES: Medical Marijuana: \$5.99

Classics from master grower Jorge Cervantes



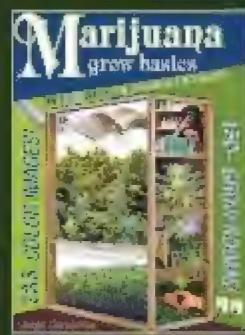
Ultimate Grow DVD Complete Box Set

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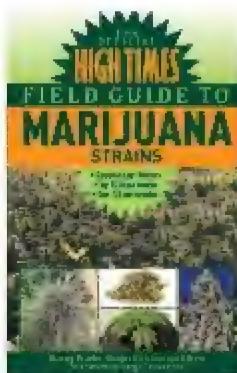


Marijuana Grow Basics

This informative guide is packed with illustrations and photos of more than 150 affordable marijuana grow setups. \$21.95

High Times Books

The Official HIGH TIMES Field Guide to Marijuana Strains By Danny Danko

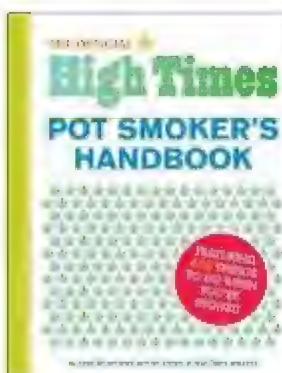


This cannabis compendium covers the world's top pot varieties—all meticulously researched and lovingly described in terms ranging from odors and flavors to potency levels and medicinal properties. \$14.95



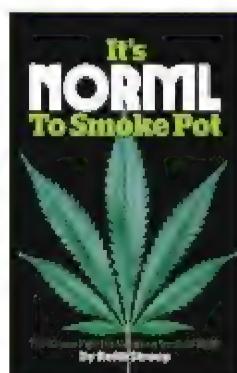
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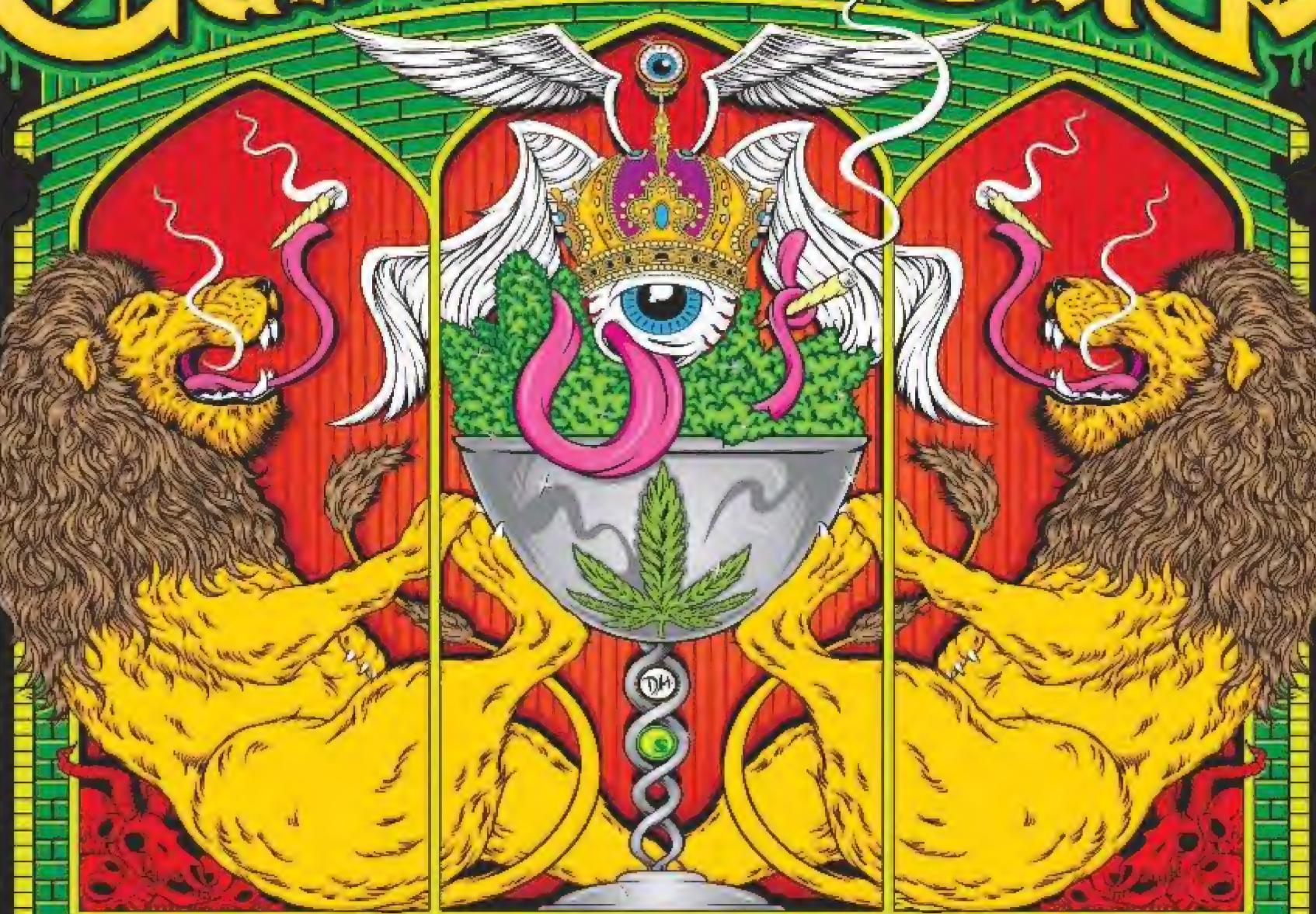
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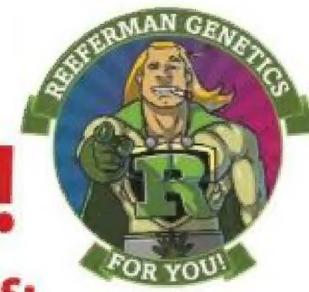
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